GRAPEVINE
VISITACION·VALLEY

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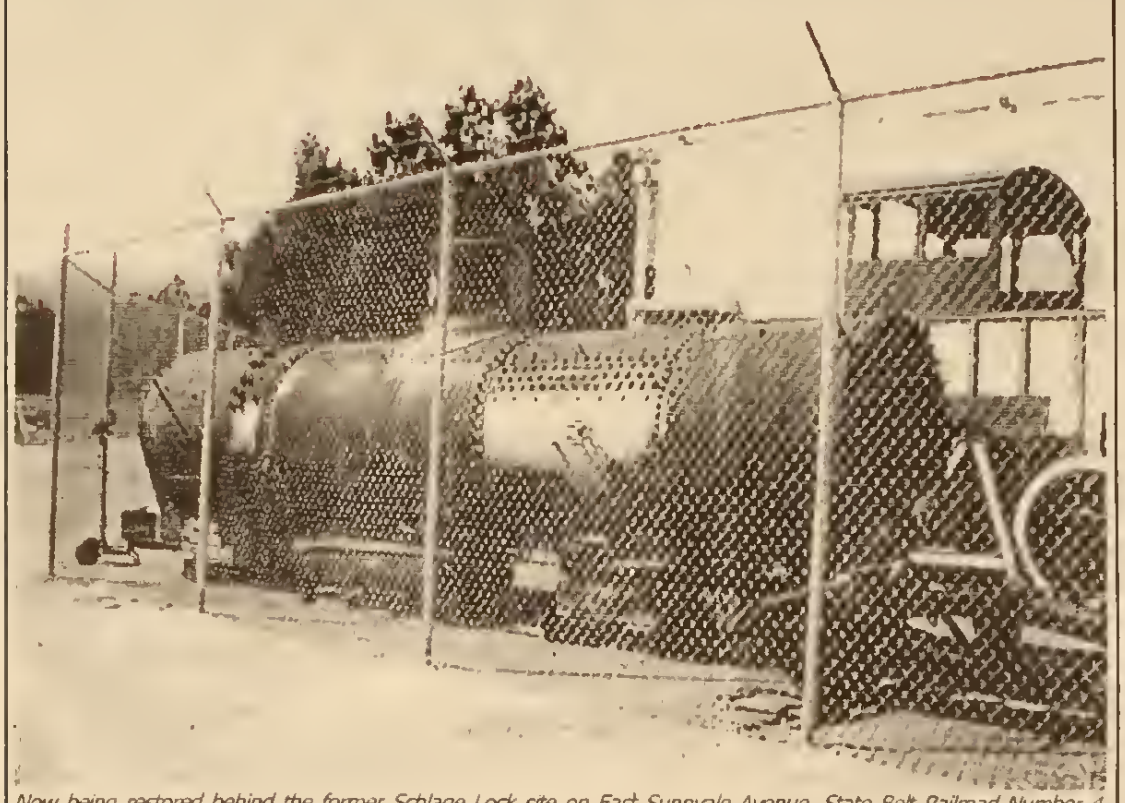
Last of the Old State Belt Railroad Steam Engines



Now being restored behind the former Schlage Lock site on East Sunnyale Avenue, State Belt Railroad Number 4, originally built in 1911, is the only surviving steam locamotive from the old rail lines one used by the Port of San Francisco.

A piece of San Francisco railroad history is being preserved today in Visitacion Valley as volunteers continue restoration of State Belt Railroad Number 4, the only surviving steam locamotive left from the Port of San Francisco.

More than $50,000 and eight years of restoration work have already done into the118,000 pound engine, originally built and put into service in July, 1911.

Completed work includes: a repair of cylinders, sand blasting and repairing of the engine frame, a renewal of axle journals, restoration of driving wheels and casting of new running gear parts.

"It's been slow and time consuming," said Cris Hart of the nonprofit San Francisco Trains, which has been working on the engine in a small fenced workspace at 200 East Sunnydale Avenue behind the Old Pacific Lithograph building. He explained the time and effort invested in the project would be well worth it when the goal of restoring the engine is one day completed.

After moving freight for a year along the piers of The Embarcadero, Number 4 was sold in 1932 to a railroad in Modesto. But in the late 1930s, the engine returned to the newly-built Treasure Island to help supply the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition.

After its service was done, Number 4 escaped being scrapped and eventually would up hundreds of miles away in Utah befor being retumed to San Francisco in 1997.

More information on the project is at www.sanfranciscotrains.com

City Emphasizes Focus on Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless

Mayor Newsom on Dec. 14 outlined the city's advances and successes in addressing chronic homelessness in his third annual State of the City's Homelessness Address.

Noting that he was aware that much more needed to be done in terms of housing families and addressing housing for seniors, Newsom identified the great strides that the city has made in the challenge to end homelessness. Newsom cited the innovative Housing First approach that provides for permanent supportive housing and accompanying wrap around social services, as the most effective means to getting more people off the streets and on the road toward self-sufficiency.

"Soup kitchens solve hunger, shelters solve sleep, permanent supportive housing solves homelessness, and it is a solution that is working. Permanent supportive housing is the comerstone of our strategy to end homelessness in San Francisco," noted Mayor Newsom.

Along with Newsom's Housing First approach, Project Homeless Connect, Homeward Bound Program, and SFHOT, the mayor reinforced the city's dedication to eradicating urban homelessness, as we once knew it. San Francisco has gone from once being identified as having the most pervasive homeless problem in the country to being a role model for the rest of the country in our commitment to ending chronic urban homelessness.

Newsom highlighted the following as evidence to the City's success in ending chronic homelessness:

Moving Homeless Off the Street

*Since January 2004, the City has added 1,798 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless single adults, representing a 130 percent increase in a little less than three years.

*The total number of permanent supportive housing units for homeless single adults now on line is 3,182.

*Over this same period, the City has placed 2,590 homeless individuals into permanent supportive housing.

*Over the next number of years the City will continue to bring additional supportive units on line as there are 1,207 units of non-profit owned supportive housing currently under construction or in pre-construction planning. This is well ahead of pace to meet the target of 1,500 nonprofit-owned supportive housing units by 2014, as articulated in the City's *10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*.

Care Not Cash

*The number of homeless individuals receiving cash welfare payments has dropped 87 percent from 2,497 in May 2004 to 333 today.

*The City has placed 1,726 individuals in housing that we pay for by redirecting almost $15 million in city funds that was once used to spend on cash assistance.

*Another 417 CNC clients have secured housing on their own.

*95 percent of those who secured housing through CNC are either still in their housing or have moved on to better housing after securing employment or increasing their income through SSI.

Seniors

*Today, there are 93 seniors aged 60+ living in shelter on any given night, representing a 60 percent decline since 2004.

*Over the next 3 years, 166 units of permanent supportive housing will be built for chronically homeless seniors to help continue this significant downward trend.

Families

*This year, $3 million was allocated to launch the Housing First for Families initiative through a comprehensive eviction prevention and rental assistance effort that will help stabilize families before they enter the shelter system and will create more and faster exits from shelter for families who have no other option.

*In addition to this $3 million annual investment, over the next three years the City will develop 138 units of housing for chronically homeless families.

Homeless Outreach Teams

*Since the outreach teams were launched in 2004, they have engaged over 530 homeless individuals (many of whom have been living on the streets for years), placing 420 of them off the streets and into services that will assist them in their transition to permanent housing.

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Updated Report Released on City's Community Policing

Police Chief Heather Fong on Dec. 4 released an updated report on the city's community policing efforts.

The report offers a summary of current SFPD's community policing strategies and highlights the on-going partnerships with community members to enhance public safety and crime reduction measures in the city's neighborhoods.

This report builds upon Mayor Newsom and Chief Fong's community policing plan announced in August of 2005.

"Clearly, government alone cannot keep our communities safe," said Mayor Newsom. It is only through true collaboration and partnership with local residents that we can ensure public safety."

"The Police Department has long engaged in community policing activities and believes that only a true partnership with community members will we be able to make our streets safer," said Chief Fong.

The San Francisco community policing report describes the current Community Policing strategies in place in San Francisco and some of the efforts to strengthen Community Policing that are forthcoming. Police Departments across the United States have been expanding their use of community policing strategies to enhance public safety and empower residents to collaborate with police to improve neighborhoods.

The San Francisco Police Department embraces the Community Policing philosophy and is committed to continually improving and expanding its practice.

This report is divided into a Departmental Overview that describes the Department's infrastructural commitment to Community Policing. This section is followed by descriptions of the Community Policing efforts occurring in each of the ten District Police Stations. These District Station reports describe each District's unique challenges and assets and the strategies being employed to partner with residents to improve safety

In addition, the report outlines dozens of initiatives that are tailored to our city's diversity such as: the Alvord Lake Task Force in the Park District; expanded neighborhood watch programs in the Taraval; and community round-tables on quality of life issues in the Tenderloin District.

Tax-Aid Returns to Community Center

Tax-Aid will return to Visitacion Valley on all Saturdays beginning Jan.27 through Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Center, 66 Raymond Ave.

The program is open to all families with total gross incomes less than $38,000.

Bring W-2s, other proofs of income and tax forms, and qualified professionals will assist in filing tax returns.

A nonprofit organization founded in 1988 by a coalition of accountants and lawyers, Tax-Aid's mission is to provide free income tax preparation to low-income families throughout the Bay Area.

In 2006, Tax-Aid prepared 2,921 returns in San Francisco with some refunds as large as $4,400.

Support of Plan for Townhall Meetings

On the heels of Mayor Gavin Newsom's recent announcement to organize monthly community policy discussions, neighborhood leaders praised the Mayor's plan to conduct substantive policy dialogues in San Francisco's neighborhoods.

The Policy Townhall meetings will address subjects important to residents, such as home-lessness, Muni, and keeping families in San Francisco.

On Nov. 7, San Francisco voters approved Proposition I, a non-binding resolution that urges the Mayor to appear in person at one Board of Supervisors meeting each month.

"My goal is to create a forum that avoids the 'politics as usual' that marks politics today. We need to empower all San Franciscans with the ability to directly address their leaders in a substantive manner that works towards solutions," said Mayor Newsom. "There is no better way to identify the needs and hamess the ideas of the community, than by inviting the public to share them with all of us in elected office on a monthly basis."

Church of the Visitacion Requests Photos And Memorabilia for Centennial Celebration

With the Church of the Visitacion commencing year-long festivities of its 100th anniversary on Jan. 6, neighborhood residents are cordially invited to share photographs and memorabilia during its centennial celebration.

Items can be sent or dropped off at the Church of the Visitacion Rectory, 655 Sunnydale Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134.

All items should be labeled, including the owner's name, address, and phone number.

Pictures will be scanned and return to their owners.

Please call (415) 239-5950 for more information.

Closing Reception for Artists in Residence

Art made from trash encourages us to be less wasteful. That is the aim of San Francisco Recycling and Disposal's Artist in Residence Program, which will hold a closing reception with refreshments for local artists Nome Edonna and Sudhu Tewari on Friday, Jan. 26, from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 27 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Both artists will exhibit work they created during their residency at San Francisco's city dump in an admission-free event open to the public.

This event is the culmination of a four-month residency in which Edonna and Tewari made art from San Francisco's discards. The exhibition features two artists who work in two very different mediums: mixed media and electronics.

During his residency, Tewari created wind-powered kinetic sculptures from used bicycle parts, repurposed discarded televisions and revamped electronics giving them new life as interactive installations. The results range from minor sparks and smoke to loud sonic and promising visual phenomena to absolutely nothing.

According to Tewari, "A never-ending supply of discarded electronic equipment fosters an environment of free experimentation, If one blows up, I'll get another," thus the title of his show: AUX: Tune for Minimum Smoke..

Both a visual and sound artist, Tewari has spent a good deal of time working with audio electronics and amplified sounds that can't be heard with the naked ear; he is currently drawn to visual representations of sound.

"Flashing lights and psychedelic patterns are fun, but I also want to expose the secret life of sound that always exists but becomes more perceptible when you see it," said Tewari. "I've been amazed at how casually people toss out working electronics."

Edonna's show titled System Overload signifies the overwhelming feeling he experienced while collecting materials at the San Francisco facility. Edonna's work tends to alternate between up-front, in-your-face social/political statements and more obscure interpretations of our present condition, which leave the viewer in charge of connecting the dots.

"There is no place that shows the prosperity and over-consumption in America more than a city dump," said Edonna. "I'm mining the depths of our culture's value system by first collecting and then contemplating discarded 'stuff' — both practical, such as furniture and clothing, — and novel, such as kitschy decorations. My paintings, constructions, and re-contextualization of objects reflect mass consumer culture and prompt new insights to creating a brighter and more balanced future."

The program was initiated in 1990 by artist Jo Hanson and San Francisco waste haulers to spur people to conserve natural resources and to instill in children and adults increased appreciation for the environment as well as art. More than 60 Bay Area artists have completed residencies.

Grapevine Mailbox

Mayor Stands on Principle Issuing Beat Patrol Veto

Following is a letter sent Dec. 15 from Mayor Gavin Newsom to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

President Peskin and
Members of the Board:

This letter communicates my veto of ordinance 061453, which mandates specific deployment of police officers by Board of Supervisors legislation. On November 3, I vetoed a very similar ordinance. The only difference between these two ordinances is that the most recent ordinance increases the legislative mandate to two additional police districts.

I veto this legislation based on the same principles as my earlier veto. Simply put, I believe this legislation is the wrong approach to an issue on which there is actually wide agreement. The Police Department and virtually all local policy makers agree that police foot patrols can enhance public safety. As a result, the Department maintains scores of active foot patrols throughout the city, averaging 310 officers per week assigned to foot patrols in 2005. Earlier this year, foot patrols were increased in high crime areas through our annual budget. Most recently, on November 24, Chief Fong deployed 44 additional officers for assignment to foot patrols resulting from planned civilianization of positions and the matriculation of new officers. These officers received initial foot patrol training on November 20 and were immediately distributed to all ten district stations. Each captain then assigned the officers to augment existing foot patrols. As a result of all of these efforts, foot patrols currently in place in all districts exceed the amount mandated in the legislation.

Since our current efforts to increase neighborhood patrols will exceed requirements in the legislation, I believe that this legislation is unnecessary. Furthermore, I consider it dangerous for the Board of Supervisors to dictate where police officers are deployed. The Police Chief and her district captains have the law enforcement expertise and the legal responsibility to maximize public safety. They know better than we do in City Hall what is required to protect residents, as well as ensure their officers' safety. We create a slippery slope when City Hall undermines the day-to-day discretion of the Police Department command staff.

Mandating a certain amount of foot patrols through legislation also means that—as a legal matter—these foot patrols must be staffed at the expense of all other police activities. If a district station has inadequate police officers to staff both foot patrols and radio cars that respond to 911 emergency calls, emergency response must be sacrificed. While the legislation makes exceptions for 'emergency' redeployment, it does not address how Captains would deal with this impossible choice on a regular basis.

Rather than legislative mandate, I believe that we can and should pursue collaborative strategies in order to increase public safety in our community. Along those lines, I look forward to working with your offices on our city's current violence prevention planning effort facilitated by UCSF. Additionally, I am hopeful that we can work together to strengthen community policing through strategies identified by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Working together, I know we can achieve our shared public safety goals throughout our city's neighborhoods.

Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

In Gratitude for Creating a Safer California

by CA Attorney General Bill Lockyer

As I complete my eighth and final year as California's attorney general, I want to thank members of law enforcement; local, state and federal officials; and all Californians who have worked so hard to make our state safer and more secure.

In 2005, California's violent crime rate decreased for the 13th consecutive year, despite a steadily increasing population, and was 53.6 percent below the peak reached in 1992. The property crime rate was 41.4 percent below its peak in 1989. We still face many challenges, but, together, we have laid a foundation that will continue to assure California's stature as a leading crime-fighting state.

California now has among the strictest laws and the toughest penalties against child sexual predators in the nation. With legislation I sponsored in 2004, we launched the Megan's Law Internet site, www.MegansLaw.ca.gov, which enables millions of parents to access information about more than 63,000 registered sex offenders in our state, in order to protect children from becoming victimized. As of November 1, 2006, this site received 345 million hits from approximately 33 million users.

Under additional legislation my office sponsored in 2006, we have added 15 years-to-life and 25 years-to-life terms for specified sexual assaults against a child and tougher penalties for distribution of child pornography and offenders loitering near places where children congregate.

We have confirmed our stature as the leading state in the use of DNA to catch criminals and protect the innocent. We have kept thousands of felons from purchasing firearms and launched new efforts to prevent guns from turning up in the hands of criminals.

The vital partnerships we have forged between schools, law enforcement and communities in the wake of the Columbine massacre now provide powerful new tools to develop vigorous school safety and crisis response plans, and take other critical steps to protect students and teachers should a disaster occur.

We inaugurated the statewide "Safe from the Start" initiative to reduce children's exposure to violence and assure that kids grow up in safe, healthy environments. We launched the multi-year "Face It. It's a Crime" Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Campaign. My Task Force on Local Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence released 44 recommendations to improve our response to domestic violence, hold batterers accountable and improve victim safety.

Yet, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. We must find new ways to fight our uphill battle against methamphetamine - a dangerous drug that is also the ingredient in many of the state's violent crimes. We must do more to turn youngsters away from substance abuse before it leads to crime, violence and ruined lives. We must strengthen our efforts to crack down on gang violence and prevent young people from joining gangs.

As I depart this office, I am proud that we have left the state in a better condition than we found it. We have done our part to pass on a safe, secure state where our children and grandchildren can experience that California dream that we have been so fortunate to live, and that still gleams in the eyes of millions of people here and throughout the world. Thanks to all for a job well done.

GRAPEVINE
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Keeping our Communities Safe Equals a Safer City

by Mayor Gavin Newsom

In August of 2005, I launched a coordinated effort amongst City departments, law enforcement, the courts and the community to combat the high rate of violence plaguing San Francisco. Together, these efforts created new job opportunities for at risk youth and adults, advanced new strategies to combat gun and gang violence, and bolstered social services for families impacted by violence.

Since then, I wanted to take the opportunity to give an update on all of our efforts with regard to public safety so I prepared SF SAFE CITY to report on San Francisco's ongoing violence prevention and reduction strategy moving forward. The strategy is organized into five key elements: collaboration, prevention, intervention, enhanced criminal justice system effectiveness, and community policing.

Among other accomplishments, the Juvenile Probation Department and the Department of Children, Youth and their Families spearheaded the most ambitious effort in San Francisco history to provide jobs to youth on probation. The Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development expanded its CityBuild Academy to provide job-training services in the construction field. The Department of Children, Youth and their Families commenced an effort to expand the Community Response Network crisis response program in the Mission and bring this model to the Bayview and Western Addition neighborhoods. The Department of Public Health initiated a new citywide Crisis Response Team to assist family members and witnesses of violent incidents. Operation Ceasefire, a collaboration among local and federal public safety agencies to combat gun and gang violence, began extensive data collection and planning. The District Attorney and Public Defender continued their efforts to improve outcomes for people exiting jail, and Police District Stations carried out violence reduction plans to tackle the unique crime problems in each neighborhood.

These initiatives have laid the foundation for a coherent strategy, but a tremendous amount of work lies ahead. The ongoing violence must be stopped through a combination of intensive prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies that can both respond to the immediate crisis on the streets and begin to deal with the underlying social and economic conditions that contribute to instability, violence, and crime.

Below, *SF SAFE CITY* describes some examples of San Francisco's ongoing violence prevention and reduction strategies being carried out this year. With an upwards of $50 million dollars invested from this year's budget, many of the successful initiatives from the summer are continuing to grow and new initiatives are underway. Some of our latest measures include:

(A) Collaboration Among Public Safety Agencies

The Criminal Justice Working Group with Mayor Newsom: In August Mayor Newsom convened a series of top level meetings with the city's highest ranking public safety officials to address immediate ways to improve criminal justice case processing. This group will continue meeting on a quarterly basis.

(B) Prevention

Communities of Opportunity: After an extensive community input process with over 300 residents and 50 planning meetings, the Communities of Opportunity Initiative was launched to implement innovative, place-based strategies of neighborhood renewal in four specific areas in southeast San Francisco through partnerships with community residents, government officials, and philanthropic organizations. Communities of Opportunity introduced 20 catalyst projects and the development of "Neighborhood Benefit Organizations" to usher in a wave of change in social service delivery. Communities of Opportunity intends to make monumental changes in these four areas within five years to see that a majority of families in these areas will be stable or self-sufficient, a majority of children will be flourishing, less than 10 percent of the families will be in crisis, and the communities will provide a safe environment, sound physical infrastructure, connected social networks, and sustainable economic activity.

(C) Intervention

Crisis Intervention: Several San Francisco agencies are engaged in expanded efforts to get emergency services to individuals in crisis, including the Crisis Response Team, the Community Response Network, community-based violence and trauma recovery programs, and domestic violence and sexual assault services.

(D) Enhanced Criminal Justice System Effectiveness

Enhanced suppression of gun and gang violence: Gun and gang violence account for a significant portion of San Francisco's rising homicide rate. To curb these urgent problems as fast as possible, San Francisco's public safety agencies are enhancing the prosecution of violent and gun-related cases, enhancing specialized police units in high violence areas, enhancing Operation Ceasefire, developing Project Sentry and Project Gunstop, and enhancing supervision for probationers with gun-related charges. These efforts are having an impact. For example, through partnerships with federal agents and SFPD, in October, 2006, gun traffickers were indicted for bringing scores of firearms to the streets of San Francisco from outside the state. Many of the weapons brought to San Francisco through this trafficking ring had been used in homicides and other shootings in the city.

(E) Community Policing

SFPD Community Policing Infrastructure: The SFPD has a number of internal strategies to strengthen community policing, including: a Director of Community Policing; enhanced beat patrol officers and school resource officers; enhanced training and recruitment; and support for community conflict mediation programs, among other strategies.

Robust Job Market Expected for City

San Francisco area employers expect to hire at a brisk pace during the first quarter of 2007, according to the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey.

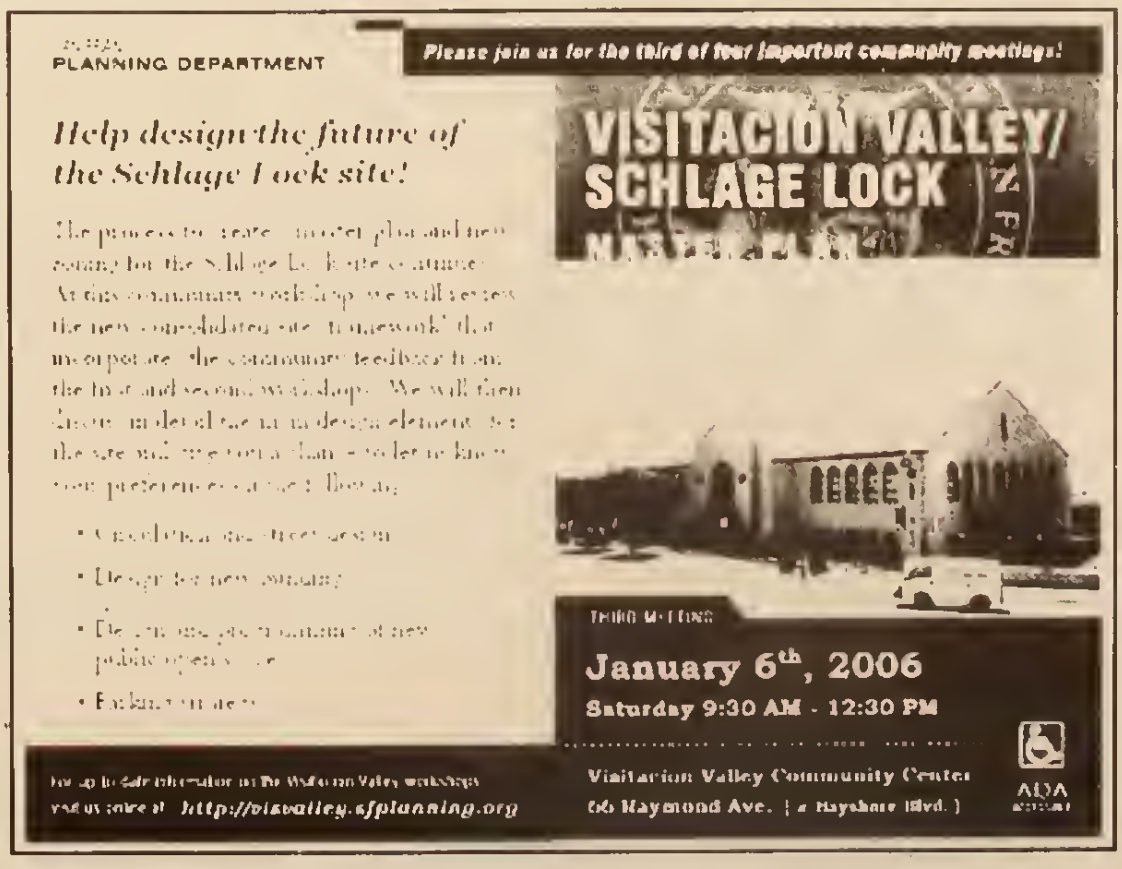
From January to March, 33 percent of the companies interviewed plan to hire more employees, while none expect to reduce their payrolls, according to Manpower spokesperson Thomas Baity. Another 50 percent expect to maintain their current staff levels and 17 percent are not certain of their hiring plans.

"In the San Francisco area, employers expect more hiring activity than in the fourth quarter when 29 percent of the companies interviewed intended to increase headcount, and 5 percent planned to decrease it," said Baity. "Employers are much more optimistic about hiring than they were a year ago when 9 percent of companies surveyed thought job gains were likely and 9 percent intended to cut back."

For the coming quarter, job prospects appear best in Wholesale/Retail Trade, Finance/Insurance/Real Estate and Services. Hiring in Construction, Durable and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing, Transportation/Public Utilities, Finance/Insurance/Real Estate and Services is expected to remain unchanged.

For more than two years, U.S. employers have consistently reported steady hiring plans. Although the first quarter job forecast is similar to last quarter and last year at this time, a subtle downward shift has emerged. While it is too early to note if this is a trend, this marks two consecutive quarters of more cautious hiring plans.

Of the 14,000 U.S. employers surveyed, 23 percent expect to add to their payrolls during the first quarter of 2007, while 11 expect to reduce staff levels. Sixty percent expect no change in the hiring pace, while 6 percent are undecided about their hiring plans for the first three months of the year.



Watercooler Counsel

Family Medical Leave Act

by Rich Proulx and Malinda Tuazon

Q: One of my employees just told me he needs to take leave because one of his family members is ill and he's the only one able to serve as caretaker. What are my responsibilities to this employee? He's a good worker and I'd love to keep him on, but I can't have someone out for an indefinite amount of time! -Leary about Leave, Nome, AK

A: Well, that all depends. The federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is the law that is most relevant to your situation. It has lots of loopholes, such as it only affects employers with at least 50 employees and it and the employee has to have worked at least 1,250 hours within the 12 months prior to the request. The FMLA grants an employee up to 12 weeks of leave within a 12 month period (a "year") to deal with his or her own serious health issue or care for a relative with a serious health condition. Here's where it gets tricky, that 12 month period doesn't necessarily need to begin and end on a calendar or fiscal year. Also, I should warn you that many states have their passed their own family friendly leave acts, that have their own quirks. (Alaska's version grants up to 18 weeks of leave.) Plus, to qualify for FMLA your employee needs to he's caring for the right family member. An employee may only be granted FMLA leave to take care of an immediate family member (i.e. spouse, child or parent). In-laws don't count. Cousins don't count. Children over the age of 18 don't count unless they are incapable of self-care. You, as the employer, have the right to request verification of the health condition and even request periodic updates on the condition. For employees who are out to deal with their own health conditions, it is also lawful for an employer to request a "fitness-for-duty" certification before the employee returns to work. But remember that you may still need to accommodate an employee under the ADA, so a "100 percent fit-for-duty" requirement is illegal. Perhaps the most exciting news for you is that there is no requirement that the leave be paid leave. That's up to you as long as your policy is consistent with all employees needing to use FMLA leave. Phew! Well, we've done our best distilling a ton of FMLA information into a few hundred words, so we suggest you contact the Department of Labor (www.dol.gov or 866-4-USWAGE) with any specific questions about extended

Q: I'm out on paternity leave and have another two months before I expect to return to work. The scuttlebutt around the office is that there are going to be layoffs within the next few weeks. I can't be laid off while I'm on leave, right? -Fearful New Father, Medford, OR

A: The good news is that the FMLA also grants up to 12 weeks to employees for the birth of a child or placement of a child for adoption or foster care. The even better news for you is that Oregon has a state law that allows up to an additional 12 weeks of leave for an employee who has already taken the FMLA "parental leave" to care for a new baby or child with a serious medical condition. The not-so-good news is that your employer may still carry out any personnel actions necessary for business regardless of whether you're on leave. Think about it— if employees were protected from lay off while on medical leave, don't you think there would be a sudden surge in the number of people "coming down with something" as soon as the lay off rumors started flying? As long as your employer is using a nondiscriminatory method to determine who gets laid off (e.g. poorest performers, most recently hired, highest paid) and the layoff doesn't have a disparate impact on any protected group of people, then the company is still allowed to swing the axe.

Our team of government experts won't love taking leave from their day jobs to answer your questions. According to a study commissioned by CareerBuilder.com, one in three Americans admits to calling in sick when feeling fine. The #1 reason given for such deviant behavior was relaxation. Send your questions to Watercooler.Counsel@eeoc.gov. Rich is a former Supervisory Investigator and Malinda is a current Investigator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission www.eeoc.gov. Identifying information in the questions may be fictional.

Valley Remembers Neighbor with Candlelight Vigil

Neighbors gathered on Dec. 6 at the corner of Tioga Avenue and Rutland Street during the early evening in remembrance of a Visitacion Valley resident shot to death outside her home in late November.

Genevieve Paez, 53 and a mother of four, was preparing to leave for her job as a U.S. Postal Service customer service supervisor in the Bayview district on Nov. 28 when she was shot in the back of the head shortly before 6 a.m..

A disgruntled co-worker who subsequently committed suicide was later implicated of the crime. About 50 U.S. Postal Service workers held a separatel vigil for Paez on Dec. 13.

It's All About the Neighborhoods

Partnering to Keep San Francisco a World Class City

by Mayor Gavin Newsom

I have always said that San Francisco is a city of vibrant and unique neighborhoods. It is the character of these neighborhoods and its residents that make our city one of the most interesting places to live and work. With this in mind, it is critical that we respect our neighborhoods, keep them clean, and care for them as the gems they are.

In keeping with my on going pledge to keep San Francisco clean and green, I have provided an additional $1.7 million in the FY '06-07 budget for a citywide cleaning initiative that will focus on public education and increased and coordinated maintenance between business districts and the community and neighborhoods they serve.

My goal is to demonstrate how San Francisco's business districts can be welcoming and vibrant assets to your community when everyone does their part. I have also always said that it is the collective behavior of all of us; pedestrians, motorists, building managers, merchants, private residents, and city employees; that impact the livability of our streets and sidewalks. The responsibility to make San Francisco green, clean, and beautiful lies with all of us.

This is where the Community Corridor Partnership comes in and I am extremely excited to introduce this innovative street cleaning program to you. The new initiative is a coordinated public and private effort to raise the quality of life in San Francisco by raising standards in key merchant corridors. Led by the Department of Public Works (DPW), the program covers 100 blocks on 19 key corridors. More than a dozen city agencies and private companies began the program by walking every inch of these 100 blocks, identifying all of the problems and they are now addressing them. Anything from a faded parking strip, to a graffitied trash can, to streetlight problems are all being fixed.

In addition, 20 Neighborhood Ambassadors have been hired by DPW to sweep gutters and sidewalks, identity all conditions on the street, and either report or resolve them. These new workers don't just sweep sidewalks, they own their block. Neighborhood Ambassadors are assigned to the corridors during afternoons and early evenings, Thursday through Monday, when the city is most active.

A key component of the program is a community building process to educate property owners and merchants about the many responsibilities they have in protecting and enhancing the livability of their street. By law, merchants and ground-floor tenants are responsible for keeping the sidewalk in good repair and grime and litter-free. This is why public education is key. An outreach worker is visiting all merchants on the block to educate them about their responsibility to keep their sidewalk clean and their building graffiti-free at all times.

DPW and my office of Economic and Workforce Development are helping merchants and owners organize to make these improvements last. Community Benefit Districts, a privately funded improvement program that can include beautification projects, clean and safe programs, graffiti removal, and tree maintenance, are being encouraged.

It is my hope that by educating people and facilitating partnerships along these corridors that a permanent new level of cleanliness and livability to the street will be achieved.

The Community Corridor Partnership is about working together to keep San Francisco a world-class city. I hope you will join me.

For more information about the program or the locations of the selected corridors, please log on to www.sfgov.org and go to the Public Works Department page or call 641-2643.

Fire Burns Home In Little Hollywood

Firefighters on Nov. 29 rushed to extinguish a two-alarm fire that burned a home in Little Hollywood.

Strong fumes from a gas can ignited and caused the accidental blaze at 336 Lathrop Ave. shortly after 12 noon, burning through the ceiling of the first floor and roof timbers.

Quickly escaping the inferno unharmed to call 911 was Don Bertone, a resident of the neighborhood for three decades.

EarthTalk

A Healthier Home

Dear EarthTalk: What kinds of home improvements could I do that would make my house healthier and more environmentally friendly? - Elizabeth Bram, via e-mail

Most homes are not lacking in ways they can be healthier for family and kinder to the environment. For one, indoor air quality is a serious problem affecting millions of homes. Studies show that air within homes can be more seriously polluted than the air outdoors—even in the largest and most industrialized cities.

According to Glenn Haege, a master handyman who hosts a national radio show on home repair, as our homes and apartments have become more energy efficient and airtight, "humidity levels from cooking and breathing tend to increase, causing mold and mildew." Harmful chemicals, he says, from construction materials, insulation, furniture, carpeting, padding, paints, solvents and household cleaners, drawn by this moist atmosphere, combine to contaminate the indoor air which then stays trapped inside.

The first step in remedying this problem is to test your indoor air. Pure Air and Envirologix, among others, sell inexpensive and easy-to-use indoor-air quality testing kits. Once you get an idea of the contaminants floating around your home, you can get to work replacing the offending sources accordingly. Green superstores such as the Environmental Home Center, Green Building Supply and Oikos offer a wealth of greener and healthier building supplies and materials. Also, BuildingGreen.com offers a free online "GreenSpec" database with detailed listings for over 2,000 environmentally preferable building products.

Materials outside the home can also contribute to health problems. One example is pressure-treated lumber, which contains a form of cyanide to keep pests away. Kids who play on backyard jungle gyms and decks made of such material can develop rashes and skin infections. Cedar wood is a naturally pest-resistant alternative that, while more expensive, is a kinder-gentler option that will stand the test of time.

Other ways to green-up the home include replacing traditional incandescent light bulbs with more energy-efficient compact fluorescents, as well as switching out conventional hot water heaters in favor of solar or on-demand tankless versions. And for saving on water, replacing traditional showerheads and toilets with pressurized low-flow alternatives can save gallons per day while generating cost savings on utility bills. Likewise, capturing rainwater and shower "graywater" to irrigate the garden is another smart move.

Do-it-yourselfers can find hundreds of websites offering tips on green building and repair. Glenn Haege's MasterHandyman.com and NaturalHandyMan.com both offer a plethora of articles and links and are good resources if you're looking to improve your own handy skills while staying true to your green ideals. Two helpful books are: Green Remodeling by David Johnston and Kim Master; and Green Building Materials: A Guide to Product Selection and Specification by Ross Spiegel and Dru Meadows. For less handy homeowners, finding a handyman well versed in green building issues might be a better way to go. The Natural Handyman Network offers a free online search tool that should offer some promising leads.

Dear EarthTalk: What do you think of those "waste to energy" plants used by cities to generate power? -Christine Ramadhin, Queens, NY

Waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities, which generate power by burning trash, have been in widespread operation in the U.S. and Europe since the 1970s and are considered by environmental advocates to be a mixed blessing. On the one hand they get rid of garbage without adding to already-stressed landfills and with the added benefit of contributing electricity to the power grid. On the other hand, they do generate toxic pollution, usually as a result of burning vinyl and plastics.

WtE facilities evolved out of basic incinerator technology that simply burns trash and reduces it to ash and smoke. Waste-to-energy plants instead use the garbage to fire a huge boiler. When the garbage "fuel" is burned, it releases heat that turns water into steam. The high-pressure steam turns the blades of a turbine generator to produce electricity.

In the U.S. and Europe, environmental laws regulate WtE plants, typically requiring them to use various anti-pollution devices to keep both harmful gases and particulate pollution (fine bits of dust, soot and other solid materials) out of the air. However, the particles captured are then mixed with the ash that is removed from the bottom of the waste-to-energy plant's furnace when it is cleaned. Environmentalists contend that this toxic ash, which can include dangerous heavy metals, may actually present more of an environmental problem than the airborne emissions themselves, as it usually ends up in landfills where it can leak into and contaminate soil and groundwater.

According to Greenpeace International, WtE facilities are also among the largest sources of dioxin emissions in industrialized countries. Dioxin is a by-product of burning polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other plastics, and has been linked to cancer and other health problems. Greenpeace advocates for phasing out WtE facilities in favor of improving recycling rates that reduce the waste stream in the first place.

Currently about 600 WtE facilities are in operation around the world. According to the National Solid Wastes Management Association, an industry trade group, the United States is home to 98 such plants operating in 29 states. These facilities manage about 13 percent of America's total trash output. In Canada, where landfill space is more abundant, WtE has failed to catch on, with only a few such facilities across the country. WtE has caught on more so in smaller technologically advanced countries such as Japan, Sweden, Denmark, France and Switzerland, where landfill space is at a premium.

Recent improvements in the energy efficiency and environmental impact of WtE facilities means that the technology promises to play a larger role globally in years to come, especially as crowded developing countries start to jump on the bandwagon.

Got an environmental question? Send it to: Earthtalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit your question at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk.html; or e-mail us at: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Book Review

Year-End Tax Savings

The end of the year is fast approaching. Time for the usual indulgences: eating too much at parties, spending too much on holiday gifts, and planning overly ambitious New Year's resolutions to undo the damage caused by the first two. What you're probably not focused on, but should be, is another kind of excess. Taxes. Before you let out a please-let's-put-this-off-till-April moan, take a moment to consider what you can do before year's end to help you out when tax time rolls around. Jim Lange says two new tax laws could mean big savings for you.

"I know that deciphering the relevance and nuances of new tax laws is, for most people, about as much fun as drinking castor oil," says Lange, author of *Retire Secure! Pay Taxes Later: The Key to Making Your Money Last as Long as You Do* (Wiley, 2006, ISBN: 0-470-04354-7, $24.95). "However, taking the time to understand what they mean for you—which, by the way, I'm here to help you with—can save you a lot of money. That knowledge should make the process much less painful.

"Everyone should know there have been two major tax bills passed this year that have important implications for taxpayers," he continues. "The bills, the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act, also called TIPRA, and the Pension Protection Act, or PPA for short, offer enormous tax savings — if you respond appropriately right now."

Here is a summary of the best strategies for making these new tax laws work for you—strategies that could help you save thousands of dollars and potentially much more in the long run.

Create nondeductible IRAs now to convert to Roth IRAs in 2010. TIPRA permits all taxpayers to make Roth conversions beginning in the year 2010, regardless of their income level. For the family, the long-term benefit of a Roth IRA conversion is simply phenomenal. The new provision will particularly benefit high-income taxpayers who have not had the opportunity to make significant contributions to a tax-free Roth account. High-income taxpayers are likely to have the longest time horizon to grow the funds tax-free and may not have to pay a higher marginal tax rate on the conversion income. Roth IRA conversions have been a valuable tool in maximizing financial security for the family. While each individual's case will benefit from an individualized analysis of the merits of the conversion, the critical feature of the Roth is that, once the initial taxes are paid on the conversion, income taxes will never be due on the growth, capital gains, dividends, interest, etc.

"Here's a sleeper idea for the wealthy," says Lange. "If you currently cannot even make Roth IRA contributions because your income is over $160,000 (joint filers) or $110,000 (single filer), consider making nondeductible traditional IRA contributions now and then convert the IRA to a Roth IRA in 2010. If those are your only IRAs, you may pay much less in tax on the conversion since you will have basis equal to the amounts contributed."

Maximize retirement plan contributions through your plan at work. The PPA has also made permanent the laws allowing higher contributions to your retirement plans and the catch-up contributions for individuals over age fifty. In 2006, individuals can contribute $15,000 per year ($20,000 per year if age fifty and older) to their retirement plans. If you haven't already, now is the time to review your 2006 year-to-date retirement plan contribution opportunities. In many instances, your employer plan will allow you to make changes for the remainder of 2006 to contribute more if you have not maximized your 2006 contributions to your desired level. Even more liberal savings opportunities exist in 2007 with the increase in the contribution limit to $15,500 per year ($20,500 per year if age fifty and older). These elective deferrals can be made on a pre-tax basis or, if your employer offers them, through the new Roth 401(k) and 403(b) plans. Keep in mind that contributions to elective deferral retirement plans and self-employed retirement plans will reduce your adjusted gross income.

See Page 8

Cooking Corner

Tortilla Roll-Ups

Stamped with a distinctive "EB" mark, the award-winning eggs have received the Best Tasting Egg Award from the American Culinary Chefs Best, the "Men's Health" Top Pick as the Best Eggs, the Crystal Egg Award from the International Egg Commission and the National Health & Wellness Club Stamp of Approval. EB eggs are also available in cage-free and organic, and all varieties are certified as kosher.

The hens that lay these eggs are fed a strictly controlled, high-quality, all-natural, all-vegetarian diet without added hormones, antibiotics or steroids of any kind.

Why not offer your family their favorite breakfast foods for dinner tonight with a fun, easy recipe from Mr. Food, successful cookbook author and TV news show personality:

(4 servings) 1 dozen Eggland's Best eggs, beaten; 3 tablespoons vegetable oil; 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided; eight 6-inch flour tortillas; 1 cup salsa.

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
2. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the EB eggs and stir for 3 to 4 minutes, or until the eggs begin to set.
3. Add 1 cup cheese and continue to stir for 1 minute, or until the eggs are softly set.
4. Divide the eggs equally down the center of each tortilla and fold the sides over the eggs.
5. Place the tortillas in a 9" x 13" baking dish. Pour the salsa over the center of the tortillas and sprinkle the remaining 1 cup cheese over the salsa.
6. Bake for 5 minutes, or until the tortillas are heated through and the cheese is melted.

Garnishing Tip: Add extra color and zip by topping these with sliced jalapeño peppers and/or sliced black olives.

For a free Mr. Food Cookbook, featuring Eggland's Best recipes and a 50 cent next-purchase coupon good on any variety of Eggland's Best Eggs, please send your request to Eggland's Best, 860 1st Ave, Ste 842, King of Prussia, PA 19406, along with $1.00 for postage and handling. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. NAPS

FREE CERAMICS CLASS

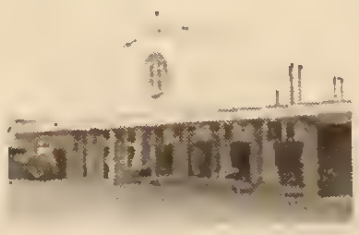
For everyone 18 and older at
Visitacion Valley Community Center,
66 Raymond Avenue
Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Very therapeutic and fun. You do not need to stay the entire day...come for as long as you like. We have a wonderful teacher to assist you.

For more information, call the
VCC Senior Program: (415) 467-4499

Church of the Visitacion

Roman Catholic (1907)



A Century in Visitacion Valley

Daily Masses
(Mon-Fri) 7 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Masses
7:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses
8 & 9:30 a.m. (11 a.m. Spanish) 12:30 & 5 p.m.

Our Lady of Visitacion School
Grades K-8
239-7840

Religious Education: Grades K-8 (Saturday only) 239-6723

Come, Let us worship together!

655 Sunnydale Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94134-2838
(415) 239-5950

Rev. Erick E. Arauz, Administrator Pro Tem
Rev. Thuan V. Hoang, Parochial Vicar

JOHN W. KING SENIOR CENTER

500 Raymond Ave. San Francisco, CA 94134

Nutritional lunches will be served at noon for $1.50. Come one, come all!

The Senior Center has many facilities, including our spacious courtyard and many senior programs for the neighborhood!

Arts & Crafts
Bingo
Ceramic
Karaoke
Movies
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Tai Chi
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Call: (415) 239-6233 Fax: 239-2262

Attention 3rd Street Motorists!
NO LEFT TURNS
NO COLLISIONS
NO FINES
AVOID A $154 FINE
AVOID COLLISIONS
The no-left turn signs along Third Street are being enforced, with Muni light rail vehicles being tested on the tracks.
T third street
San Francisco Municipal Railway
A Division of the Municipal Transportation Agency
RESPECT THE RAIL

Joe Leland around the neighborhood

*DPW Cleans Leland/Bayshore: Thanks to supportive words from the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, the constant calls from concerned residents, and the hard work of community advocate, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is focusing clean up along commercial blocks of Leland Avenue and portions of Bayshore Boulevard with dedicated DPW maintenance workers through June 2007, budgeting permitting. The famous "Green Machines" have been seen sweeping the sidewalks and there are regular clean ups along the new light rail tracks. When you see DPW employees working hard to keep our neighborhood clean and litter free, stop and tell them that they're doing a great job. Recognize their efforts by send DPW a letter or email expressing thanks.

*New Business Opened!: La Flue-Walton Real Estate & Loan Brokers will opened in the storefront at 2428 Bayshore Blvd. The independently owned business offers a wide array of personal financial services such as business loans, credit counseling, and first time homebuyer consultation.

*Schlage Lock Workshop: Saturday Januaryr 6th, the S.F. Planning Department will be hosting another Schlage Lock planning workshop. The workshop will be held at the Visitacion Valley Community Center, 66 Raymond Ave. from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Don't let the future of Schlage Lock be designed without YOUR input!

Intruders Don't Always Arrive on Foot

With the weather turning cooler, many seniors will spend more time at home, which is not always a safe haven.

Better Business Bureaus (BBB) today issued an international alert urging the families of senior citizens to safeguard their homes against scam artists.

Scam artists aren't looking for items to steal. They seek to obtain personal information (Social Security, bank account and credit card number) and/or money. And, unlike traditional burglars, scam artists are happy to find someone at home, particularly if that person is a senior citizen.

"Con artists consider seniors to be easy prey and choose their entryway accordingly: the telephone, the front door bell or the mailbox," said Steve Cole, president and CEO of the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

Ways to Scam Seniors

To many of us, the following scenarios would seem unbelievable. To the BBB, they are typical examples of frauds that frequently target the elderly.

**Sweepstakes/Foreign Lotteries*: An elderly man in Ohio was mailed a bogus "Award Notification" from the International Lotto Commission in Spain, claiming he won $815,590. He raced to Spain, where he was told to meet the manager of the lottery's finance company at a local bank. He would receive his lottery check if he paid 5% of his winnings plus an additional $8,150 fee. He finally realized it was a scam and flew home.

**Health Related*: Elderly Hoosiers are receiving phone calls from the "National Medical Office" and other official-sounding "agencies." The caller warns their Medicare cards are about to expire. To prevent this, seniors must provide their bank account number so the "agency" can quickly deduct a one-time fee (ranging from $200-$400).

**Home Repairs*: In Houston, elderly minorities are responding to mailbox flyers offering loans for home repairs. They don't realize the loans have a 19-21% interest rate. The contractor later convinces them to sign a "work has been completed" form and disappears without performing the repairs. On the West Coast, an elderly woman reports that she was charged $900 to have her circuit breakers "cleaned."

**Door-to-door Scams:* In Newfoundland, salespeople went house to house demonstrating "new" vacuum cleaners to senior citizens; the machines turned out to be used. In Toledo, a woman recently knocked on doors in a senior citizen neighborhood, sometimes after 10:00 p.m. If the resident opened the door, she barged in to falsely claim she was selling Girl Scout cookies and needed to collect the money now.

Why Seniors Are at Risk

"Seniors can be vulnerable due to their age and their living conditions," said one BBB executive.

They trust strangers who are friendly and appear to have the senior's best interests at heart. They are also vulnerable to offers claiming to assist with the cost of prescription drugs, or costs of maintaining a home.

Senior citizens are frequently at home, making them ready prey for fraudulent telemarketers and drive-by "contractors." Seniors who live alone may lack a family member to help them make good choices. Or, they may reside in low-income or senior citizen neighborhoods – common targets for scam artists.

Check, Protect and Defend

The BBB recommends that family members, neighbors and friends of elderly citizens take a three-pronged approach – Check, Protect and Defend — to help them from being defrauded.

*Insist that your elderly relative check with the BBB whenever they receive a phone call, a piece of mail, a flyer or a visit from an unknown person, business or charity. Urge them to call the BBB before they let anyone into their home, hand over any money or personal or financial information, sign any contract or donate any money.

*Encourage them to protect their personal information. They should not carry their Social Security card in their wallet or purse. Warn them to never give out their mother's maiden name, their Social Security number, bank account number or credit card number to an unknown individual, no matter how tempting the offer.

*Help defend against scam artist intruders. Put the senior's phone number on the National Do Not Call registry (phone 1.888.382.1222) to reduce calls from telemarketers. Post a "No Solicitation" notice by their front door. Help them to sort through their incoming mail. Explain why they shouldn't respond to certain advertisements and point out suspicious mailings. Watch TV with them to check their interest in infomercials. Discourage them from sending money in response to "too good to be true" offers.

January Events at Vialley Branch Library

Following are events in September at the Visitacion Valley Branch Library:

*Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, Tuesday: Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.

*Jan. 2, 9,16 and 30, Tuesday: Infant/Toddler Lapsit with stories songs and rhythms for young children ages birth-3 at 11:15 a.m.

*Jan. 10, Wednesday: Preschool Videos, featuring: Millions of Cats; How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon? and How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.

*Jan. 23, Yoga and Stories with Marianna Doig, a playful, fun and interactive movement program for babies and toddlers and accompanying adults at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a mat or towel to use on the floor. For ages birth-3. Space limited. Call for reservations.

Visitacion Valley Branch Library is located at 45 Leland Ave. (at Desmond Street). Call (415) 355-2848.

Myths and Facts Of Auto Theft

In 2005, a vehicle was stolen every 25.5 seconds in the United States, based only on data for the 1,235,226 stolen vehicles reported to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Using the FBI's average valuation of $6,173 per stolen vehicle, this amounts to over $7.6 billion in losses in 2005 just in vehicle value alone.

"Auto theft is an expensive crime, so it is important to be prepared in advance to handle your vehicle being stolen. But all too often, consumer attitudes about preventing vehicle thefts are based on misconceptions, which can lead to expensive consequences for the unprepared victim," says Carolyn Gorman, Vice President of the Insurance Information Institute (III), a non-profit consumer education organization.

Victims like Stephen Cox say it can be nearly impossible to avoid being the victim of an auto theft, even for those who install anti-theft devices or park in a secure area. Speaking from personal experience, Cox, who is Vice President, Communications for the Council of Better Business Bureaus, says, "Car thieves, like home burglars, are not usually deterred by a single layer of protection." Cox had two vehicles stolen in a three-year period when he was living in California, both of which had manufacturer-installed security systems that were disabled by the thieves. These included a Pontiac Firebird with a CLUB anti-theft device that was stolen in daylight and a Nissan 300ZX that was stolen at night from a gated community.

Robert Bryant, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the insurance industry's theft and fraud fighting organization, suggests the more layers of protection on your vehicle, the more difficult it is to steal. "Motorists driving theft-prone vehicles need to take additional steps such as installing a visible deterrent like a steering wheel lock, alarm or other type of disabling device."

While it is important for consumers to know how to help prevent vehicle theft, the "Wiser Drivers Wise Up" program is focused on educating drivers to be better prepared to handle a vehicle theft when it does occur (www.wiserdrivers.com), with information provided by a team comprised of the Insurance Information Institute (III), Council of Better Business Bureaus and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

Myth: Most Thefts Occur in Unprotected Areas. Despite conventional wisdom, parking in an unprotected area does not mean your vehicle is more likely to be stolen. An FBI report on "Crime in the United States" indicates that more than one-third of all vehicle thefts occur at a home or residence, compared to only two of every 10 vehicle thefts occurring at a parking lot or parking structure. Vehicles that are stolen from highways, roads or alleys, including carjacking, account for the least number of thefts.

Myth: Stolen Vehicles Are Usually Found. Drivers who believe their stolen car will eventually be found also may be making a false assumption, especially if their vehicle has been missing for more than six days. Although about one-half of all stolen vehicles are recovered, the first few days are critical. Even if the vehicle is recovered, it may be completely totaled. The longer the vehicle is in the possession of criminals, the less chance of recovery. Interestingly, Fridays and Saturdays are the days with the highest frequency of motor vehicle theft and Mondays and Tuesdays have the highest recovery rates.

Myth: Insurance Always Provides a Rental Car. Another common misconception many insured drivers have is that once they report a stolen car, their auto insurance will automatically cover a rental car until their vehicle is found or they are authorized by their insurance company to buy a new one, which can take several weeks. Unfortunately, although insurance for theft is included in the comprehensive part of an auto insurance policy, this coverage may not automatically include coverage for a replacement rental car for a stolen vehicle. Since replacement rental car coverage is only a couple dollars a month, it can cost more for a one-day car rental than for a full-year of coverage.

Myth: Anti-Theft Devices Are Easy to Install. Pay a competent professional to wire, install and test the anti-thett system because there is too much complexity in today's vehicles for an untrained person to cut into a vehicle's electronics. Don't select the installer on price alone; check with the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org) for a report to see if the business is reputable. Also, ask if the alarm system technician is certified by the Mobile Electronics Certification Program (MECP). If not, you may want to look elsewhere. And, make sure the shop provides a written warranty and will take the time to show you how the anti-theft system works so that you are comfortable with its operation.

Myth: Thieves Are Not Interested in Older Vehicles. Those who believe that older vehicles are of no interest to thieves should think again. In 2005, the top five model years stolen were 1991, 1995, 1989, 1994 and 1997, respectively, according to The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), which combats auto theft by investigating cases referred to it by insurers and through its online databases. "Older vehicles are most often taken for their parts which are no longer manufactured and are too difficult or expensive to obtain," said Robert M. Bryant, president and chief executive officer of NICB. Unfortunately, motorists with older vehicles who have dropped comprehensive coverage to save money are not covered for theft and do not qualify for replacement rental car coverage. NICB also publishes annual lists of the top thefts by region and by year, make and model, as well as most popular colors stolen and other information, including tips to help avoid theft using its "Layered Approach to Protection" at www.nicb.org,

The bottom line is not to wait until after your vehicle is stolen to find out you don't have the coverage you think you have. Consumer Reports (www.consumerreports.org) advises drivers to review their auto insurance policy once a year, including coverage you must have, coverage you'll probably need, and additional types of coverage, including roadside assistance and rental reimbursement.

Supported by 1,000 major property and casualty insurance companies, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (www.nicb.org), based in Chicago, and is a not-for-profit organization dedicated exclusively to fighting insurance fraud and theft through criminal investigations, industry training and public education programs. For more information on fraud and how it affects everyone, please visit www.nicb.org.

The Insurance Information Institute (www.iii.org) is a non-profit, communications organization supported by the property/casualty insurance industry.

The Council of Better Business Bureaus, based in Arlington, VA, is the umbrella organization for Better Business Bureaus (BBBs) which are supported by 380,000 business members nationwide. The Council and all local BBBs are private, non-profit organizations funded by membership dues and other support. BBB reports on insurance companies, agents and agencies and other types of businesses can be accessed at www.bbb.org.

Focus on Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless

From Page 1

*HOT was instrumental in the City's effort to assist homeless to move from Golden Gate Park into services and housing that they need to improve their lives. Since the City launched itsr effort in Golden Gate Park, HOT has placed 83 individuals into temporary stabilization housing and has reunited another 35 with their friends or families through Homeward Bound.

Project Homeless Connect

*The City has taken over 1,500 individuals off the street into stabilization units or shelter.

Homeward Bound

*Since its launch, 1,788 individuals have been reunited to friends or family in all 48 states in the continental U.S. at an average cost of about $147 per client. ($262,586 total cost of the program since February 2005.)

Expansion of Chronic Public Inebriate Housing

This year, through a grant from HUD, the City's Department of Public Health opened 62 units of permanent supportive housing for chronic alcoholics. This program targets individuals identified as chronic high-users of the Sobering Center and other systems of care, costing the City tens of thousands of dollars each year. The clients identified are placed into this housing on a voluntary basis, where they are allowed to continue to use alcohol and are actively case managed in an attempt to reduce their consumption

Other housing programs across the country have proven effective in targeting "chronic public inebriates" in an effort to reduce the costs associated with the over-use of public services, as well as improve individuals' health outcomes. These programs, like the City's, typically do not require the residents to limit their alcohol consumption or participate in services.

Gardening and Composting Classes in January

Classes are held at the Garden for the Environment (GFE), 7th Avenue at Lawton Street. Call 731-5627 for a more informationg or to pre-register. These free workshops are part of the Resource Efficient Landscaping Education Program.

*Jan. 6, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. GFE and SFGRO invite all garden coordinators, community gardeners, neighbors and San Francisco community members interested in the benefits of composting to attend a workshop and forum on composting and it's role in community gardens, urban backyards, and individual households. The City found that nearly 40 percent of San Francisco's residential garbage is valuable organic material that can be composted into rich fertilizer for your soil. Learn what you can do to reduce waste, save money, help the environment and be an active participant in San Francisco Environment's waste diversion program. Bring your own questions, share your experiences and participate in a discussion with local compost educators. This event will begin with a hands-on compost workshop, immediately followed by the Compost Education Forum.

*Jan. 7, Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join GFE and the San Francisco Rose Society for this exciting workshop on methods of growing roses without toxic pesticides and fertilizers. They will demonstrate pruning techniques, share well-versed strategies and discuss the importance of selecting disease-resistant varieties that will thrive in the unique microclimates of San Francisco. Pre-registration required.

*Jan. 27, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Winter is the best time to prune for vigorous spring growth. With appropriate pruning techniques, you can minimize your pest and disease problems, promote fruiting and flowering, and encourage healthy, sustainable plants. Pre-registration required.

Child Care Centers in Your Neighborhood

Serving the Needs of Children 2 to 5 Years

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3 N 1 Learning Center
240 Leland Ave.
San Francisco
(415) 584-8555

For More Information, Please Contact
Sandra Davis, Executive Director at (415) 333-2659

Annual Report of Single Family Homes Sold in 2006 for Visitacion Valley

	Sold $	Bd/Ba	Sq. Ft.	Date Sold
220 Argonaut Ave	475,000	4/2	1726	June 16
44 Burr Ave	500,000	4/2	1728	Sept 15
1243 Sunnydale Ave	500,000	4/2.5	1725	Nov 22
56 Burr Ave	500,000	4/2.5	1728	Jan 13
174 Garrison Ave	504,123	3/2.5	1350	Oct 24
322 Schwerin	535,000	3/2.5	1350	Oct 26
44 Garrison Ave	550,000	4/3	1726	Sept 29
55 Rey St	550,000	2/1	1180	April 28
210 Parque Dr	555,000	3/1	1165	Dec 7
1155 Brussels St	555,000	3/1		March 7
301 Elliot St	562,600	2/1	975	May 12
1422 Sunnydale Ave	565,000	4/2	1173	May 4
62 Kelloch Ave	565,000	4/2.5	1725	Feb 17
40 Teddy Ave	577,000	1/1	900	March 17
116 Britton	585,000	2/1	1025	Aug 29
107 Britton St	587,000	0/2	1550	April 17
362 Velasco Ave	595,000	4/2.5	1726	April 11
550 Argonaut Ave	595,000	5/2.5	1726	May 18
186 Raymond Ave	608,000	2/1	1000	July 7
332 Wilde Ave	610,000	3/2	1685	May 25
37 Tioga Ave	610,000	2/1	1146	Feb 6
115 Parque Dr	618,000	3/1	1119	June 28
1200 Brussels St	620,000	2/1	1300	July 31
42 Loehr St	625,000	3/2	1243	June 30
65 Alder St	625,000	2/2	1150	Dec 5
245 Desmond St	628,000	2/1	1012	Mar 14
546 Campbell Ave	629,900	3/2	1287	Jan 20
1044 Goettingen St	632,000	2/1	830	July 28
630 Campbell Ave	635,000	2/1	955	Oct 5
120 Ankeny St	638,000	3/1	1100	June 13
102-106 Teddy Ave	640,000	2/1.5	525	Nov 30
994 Rutland St	642,000	2/1	1400	June 6
307 Teddy Ave	647,000	3/2		Mar 7
532 Velasco Ave	650,000	4/2	1168	Sept 25
1368 Goettingen St	655,000	2/1	832	Oct 3
3250 San Bruno Ave	658,600	2/1	1375	Aug 28
132 Cora St	659,000	2/1	900	Apr 28
150 Ward	660,000	3/2	1125	Apr 24
57 Pasadena St	660,000	3/1	1058	Sept 20
916 Brussels St	661,000	2/1.5	1275	Mar 23
200 Alpha St	665,000	2/1	1125	July 28
908 Sunnydale Ave	665,000	2/1.5	1118	June 29
1 Wabash Ter	665,000	2/1	800	Aug 18
2108 Bayshore Blvd	680,000	2/2	1225	Mar 21
154 Schwerin St	685,000	2/1	825	May 11
63 Castillo St	685,000	3/2.5	1077	June 30
314 Alpha St	685,000	4/1	1150	July 9
283 Hahn St	687,000	4/2	1500	June 14
559 Campbell Ave	690,000	5/2	1475	Mar 24
839 Rutland St	699,000	3/2	1452	June 21
320 Harkness Ave	699,000	3/2	1260	Apr 14
477 Harkness Ave	700,000	7/3	2500	Nov 7
338 Teddy Ave	700,000	2/1	800	July 13
37 Ervine St	701,000	3/2.5	2157	Mar 16
961 Goettingen	705,000	2/1	836	Dec 5
1215 Brussels St	710,000	3/2	1425	Apr 21
487 Sunrise Way	715,000	4/2	1000	Sept 22
136 Tioga Ave	715,000	5/2	1125	Aug 17
994 Rutland St	718,000	3/2	1400	Sept 1
975 Girard St	718,000	3/3	1600	Apr 7
691 Campbell Ave	720,000	3/2	1873	Feb 23
1230 Visitacion Ave	730,000	4/2	2250	July 27
51 Melra Ct	745,000	3/2	1440	Aug 24
207 Sawyer St	745,000	6/3	1340	July 21
30 Alder St	780,000	5/2	1866	Feb 6
207 Sawyer St	780,235	6/3	1800	Feb 3
261 Santos St	785,000	3/2	1237	Sept 12
257 Desmond St	790,000	5/2	1940	June 1
379 Raymond Ave	795,000	3/2	1475	Nov 29
213 Velasco Ave	840,000	5/2.5	2400	Apr 25
9 Teddy Ave	860,000	4/4	2643	June 23
245 Harkness Ave	883,000	4/2	1429	May 5
247 Schwerin St	920,000	6/5	3415	Oct 25

Total Single Family Homes Sold: 73; Average Sold Price: $659,280
Average Sq. Ft: 1393; Average Day on Market: 47; Average price/sq. ft.: $521

Data Sources from San Francisco Realtor Association, MLS. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

Happy New Year and all the best for 2007!

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Year-End Tax Savings

From Page 1

Save money through tax-loss harvesting. Using capital loss carry-forwards to reduce taxable gains by offsetting the losses against the gains is referred to as "tax-loss harvesting or tax-loss selling." Now is the time to review your investment portfolio and make some decisions that will generate tax savings. It is required for income tax purposes to match your short-term gains with short-term losses and your long-term gains with long-term losses. If you can avoid it, you do not want to end up with short-term taxable gains because you failed to sell, prior to year-end, securities that would have created a loss to offset these short-term gains. Short-term gains are taxed at ordinary income rates that are as high as 35 percent in 2006. "Ideally, you want to generate losses because you can deduct up to $3,000 per year of losses against ordinary income," says Lange. "That adds up to an $840 tax savings for an individual who is in a 28 percent tax bracket. Be careful to avoid a wash sale, i.e., buying the same security within thirty days of the time you sell the shares—the tax rules will disallow the loss."

Roths available for everyone who works: new Roth 401(k) and 403(b). Effective January 1, 2006, employers were able to add a Roth feature to 401(k) and 403(b) retirement plans to their employees. The Roth 401(k) and/or Roth 403(b) plans were originally scheduled to last only through 2007, so employers were hesitant to make the changes to their plans to allow this option. However, the PPA has now made these plan options a permanent addition to the tax code. Therefore, more employers have now adopted these features, and many employers who did not offer these in 2006 will now begin the feature in 2007.

"This really is a great new addition to the retirement plan arena," says Lange. "By now most taxpayers have heard of Roth IRAs and I am an advocate of using them, when possible, to take advantage of the tax-free growth of the account. In the past, many of my clients made too much money to qualify for Roth IRA contributions. Well, that statement is now old news since all taxpayers whose employers offer Roth 401(k) or Roth 403(b) plans are now eligible to make contributions to these plans, regardless of their income."

If you are over 70 ½ years old, reduce your taxable income by directing your IRA minimum required distribution to charity. Under the PPA, effective for years 2006 and 2007, if you are over 70 ½ you can make a qualified charitable distribution directly from your IRA to the charity of your choice (subject to some restrictions). This provision applies to IRAs only and not qualified plans. The money transferred from the IRA does not count as income. You don't get a charitable deduction, but for many taxpayers, this is a good trade. A key provision of this new law is that the IRA amount donated in this fashion counts toward your minimum required distribution (MRD). Also, if you have after-tax dollars or nondeductible IRAs, the donated part comes out of only the taxable part and does not diminish your after-tax or nondeductible portion of the IRA. This may set you up for a more favorable Roth IRA conversion in future years since fewer dollars would be taxable.

Go ahead and make non-cash charitable contributions—but keep good records. The PPA also made a significant number of rule changes on the requirements of charities and individuals claiming non-cash contributions. Among other things, the IRS now will allow donations of clothing and household items only in "good used condition or better." Although the IRS cannot define exactly what that means, it is an indication that they are cracking down on a much-abused deduction. In order to better document your contributions, we suggest keeping a detailed list of what was donated, with values of individual items and original costs, if known. Taking a picture of donated items is also suggested. "Another quick tip: for money denominated contributions over $250, the IRS now requires a cancelled check or credit card statement as backup in addition to the letter from charities," says Lange. "Cash contributions that do not have this backup are no longer deductible. Therefore, we suggest using checks for all contributions instead of cash. This new rule change discourages the age-old gifts to the collection plate at a church, synagogue, or other organizations that pass around a collection plate."

Think before transferring investment assets to your kid: the new "kiddie" tax rules. TIPRA rules now will classify children as those through age seventeen—not just youngsters through age thirteen, as before. This means that if your child under age eighteen has investment income over $1,700 in 2006, the child will pay tax at the parent's tax rate and must file Form 8615. It is still a good tax planning strategy to transfer investments to your child up to the point where the income from them is $1,700. If your child is eighteen years old, it is still prudent to transfer investments earning over $1,700 to him/her. For example, assume you are in a 25 percent tax bracket and are planning to sell some appreciated long-term stock to pay for your eighteen-year-old's education. Consider making a gift and transferring the stock to your child, who subsequently sells the stock. You have effectively shifted long-term capital gains from a 15 percent taxation rate to your child's long-term capital gains tax rate of 5 percent. You should keep in mind that there are no strings attached to these types of gifts. Keep in mind that with this type of transaction, the money becomes your child's money. Also, make Roth IRA contributions for your kids if they have any earned income.

Buy a hybrid car. Beginning in 2006, there are tax credits available for purchasing Alternative Technology Vehicles, the most common of which are the hybrid vehicles that use both gas and electricity to propel the vehicle. This credit reduces federal tax bills on a dollar-for-dollar basis and replaces the clean-fuel vehicle deduction allowed in prior years. Unlike many tax credits in the Internal Revenue Code, these energy tax credits are not phased out for higher-income individuals.

Caution is needed in quantifying the benefits, however, for two reasons. One is that its apparent benefit may be offset by the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). The other is that the full credit is available only until the end of the first calendar quarter after the quarter in which the manufacturer records its sale of the 60,000th vehicle. The two quarters thereafter, you get only 50 percent of the full credit. The two quarters after that, you get only 25 percent of the full credit, and after that, nothing.

Make energy-efficient improvements to your home and reap tax benefits. A tax credit is also available for the purchase of energy-efficient improvements to existing homes located in the United States. Qualifying property includes insulation, windows, doors, furnaces, and hot water heaters. A qualifying purchase will mainly be based on manufacturer certifications in the materials that come with their products. The credit is based on a percentage of the cost of the qualifying item. For example, you will take 10 percent of the cost of qualifying windows up to a maximum credit of $200. There is a maximum lifetime credit of $500 for all of the qualifying purchases mentioned above.

"If you don't take the time right now to review your financials to see which of these new provisions will benefit you, you are missing out on potentially saving thousands of dollars," says Lange. "I know a lot of this material can be very heavy. If you're just not sure what all of this means for you, sit down with your financial advisor and let him or her explain it. I know it doesn't fit with your festive mood, but make an appointment and grab some holiday cookies to take with you to lighten the mood. Come April 15, you'll be very glad you did."

California Fuel Prices Up in Last Month

After years of relentless volatility, California drivers saw their gas prices remain relatively stable over the last month, according to a new report from AAA of Northern California, which tracks fuel costs as a service to consumers. The statewide average cost of a gallon of regular unleaded gas is now $2.51, up 3 cents from the last AAA gas price report on Nov. 14.

"At least the prices are fairly consistent," said Sean Comey, spokesman for AAA of Northern California. "Unfortunately, they're stable at a fairly high price."

The cost of crude oil, the raw material from which gas is made, is rising. That often leads to an increase in the retail price of gasoline. Part of the increase may be the result of speculation that OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) will agree to further cuts in oil production at its meeting later this week in an effort to keep prices high. Winter weather and its effect on the demand for home heating oil could also have an impact on the cost of crude and gasoline.

Supply does not appear to be a problem right now. The California Energy Commission reports that the supply of gasoline is average and production is above average compared to statistics for the last five years.

The current average price in California is 21 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The most expensive average gas price in California communities where AAA monitors fuel costs is in Santa Barbara, where regular unleaded sells for $2.79 per gallon. The lowest price among Northern California cities tracked by AAA is in Pleasanton and Sacramento, with an average of $2.43 per gallon.

The national average for a gallon of regular unleaded is $2.29, up 6 cents from last month's survey and 11 cents higher than a year ago. The most expensive gas in the United States is in Wailuku, Hawaii where a gallon of regular unleaded costs an average of $3.08. In this month's survey, the highest price for gas in the continental United States is in Santa Barbara. The least expensive gasoline in the country is found in Springfield, Missouri, where regular unleaded costs an average of $2.10.

Bayview Police Update

by Bayview Captain Albert Pardini

"Thursday, Dec. 7, 8:22 p.m., 2600 Block of San Bruno Ave., Trespassing, Resisting a Police Officer Arrest: Officers were on patrol on San Bruno Avenue when they heard loud music pounding from far down the block. As they continued, they found that the music was pulsing from a car in violation of the California Vehicle Code, so they detained the man in order to give him a ticket. It turned out that this man's criminal history included arrests for guns and resisting arrest. As they gave the man his well-earned ticket (they had heard the music from at least 100 feet away), he became abusive and began cursing at them. They gave him the ticket and then decided to go to a nearby restaurant and buy dinner. While the officers were ordering their food, the man came in to the restaurant and began screaming and cursing at them for giving him a ticket. The man continued to make a scene despite the manager asking him to leave, despite the officers advising the man to take his ticket to traffic court, and despite the fact that there were several families in the restaurant trying to eat a peaceful dinner. Finally, the manager asked the officers to escort the man out of the restaurant. Officers told the man that he was now trespassing, and that he must leave or he would be arrested. The man refused and continued to scream and curse at them. When the officers attempted to escort the man out a scuffle broke out – knowing the man's previous criminal record for guns and resisting arrest, the officers called for backup. When it was all over, the man found that not only did he have a traffic ticket, but that he was now in handcuffs and under arrest. This is an example of how sometimes it is just better to sign the ticket and save the arguing for traffic court!

"Saturday, Dec. 9, 2:45 a.m., 200 Block of Girard St., Robbery with Gun, Arrest Made: A man who was coming home from work got off a Muni bus and began to walk home. He saw a car stop on the corner and two suspects exited the car and walked towards him. One of the suspects pushed the victim to the ground and the other male pointed a long rifle. The suspects rummaged through the victim's belongings and took his money. The suspect jammed the end of the rifle into the ear of the victim causing it to bleed. Officers reported that the wound in the victim's ear was the shape of a rifle barrel. The suspects fled in the car and the victim went to his nearby home and called the police. The responding officers broadcast a description of the vehicle over the radio. The vehicle was stopped on Precita and Mission Streets. The victim identified the vehicle as the one that used in his robbery. It also was learned that the suspects had committed two similar robberies in the area.

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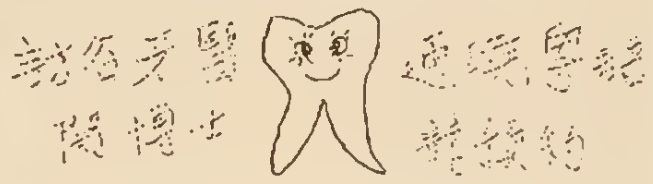

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Come to Church This Week

Visitacion Valley Police Report

by Ingleside Captain Paul Chignell

Police Cases

*On Nov. 18 at 2:53 a.m., officers were on patrol in McLaren Park when they spotted a suspicious person. A warrant check revealed that the resident of the 3100 block of Geneva had a no bail warrant for robbery from Alameda County.

*On Nov. 20 at 1:25 p.m., the School Resource Officer at Visitacion Valley Middle School 400 block of Raymond investigated a case where a 12 year-old girl was set upon by four classmates. They beat her about the face, ribs and stomach area. The three suspects, who reside on the 1600 block of Sunnydale, 1000 block of Goettingen, and 500 block of Blanken, were arrested for felony assault and conspiracy. At 5:30 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle at Leland and Britton for an equipment violation. The driver, who lives on the 100 block of Westpoint, was driving with a suspended license. He was cited and his 1988 Ford was towed.

*On Nov. 21 at 6 p.m., officers went to the 100 block of Brookdale on a verified report of sex acts by an adult upon a young child. The suspect was identified and arrested by Park Station officers on Haight Street. He was booked on numerous felony counts. At 9:32 p.m. on the 100 block of Hahn, a 10 year-old boy had taken an item that belonged to his 29 year-old uncle. The uncle struck the boy several times causing bruising and redness. Officers conducted an investigation and then arrested the uncle for felony assault, false imprisonment and a parole violation.

*On Nov. 22 at 12:48 p.m., an officer was patrolling on the 100 block of Leland when he spotted a suspect urinating on a telephone pole. He stopped the suspect and found that he was a parolee at large. A search revealed suspected cocaine and paraphernalia. The resident of the 200 block of Leland was arrested on numerous charges.

*On Nov. 23 at 5:23 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle at Santos and Brookdale for failing to yield to a pedestrian. The driver, who lives on the 700 block of 6th Avenue, was cited and his 1995 Chevrolet was towed. At 11 p.m., an officer interviewed a domestic violence victim at Ingleside Station. The suspect in the case was in custody at the County Jail on another matter. The victim had been beaten and thrown to the ground in front of her 12 year-old son at a residence on the 2200 block of Bayshore. The officer placed additional charges of domestic violence and criminal threats on the suspect. At 11:17 p.m., officers arrested a local resident on the 2200 block of Bayshore on a warrant for driving with a suspended license and other infractions.

*On Nov. 25 at 9:21 a.m., officers were sent from the Bayview District to work the Ingleside to help address violence in the southeastern area of the City. These officers went to an address on the 300 block of Teddy with two adult probation officers to conduct a probation search. The person of interest at that address was on felony probation and officers had previously found firearms on the premise. The officers entered and found the probationer, who gave an address on the 900 block of Shotwell. Suspected methamphetamine and cocaine was found as well as a .9mm firearm, ammunition and gang indicia. The suspect was arrested on numerous felonies.

*On Nov. 27 at 12:50 p.m., Ingleside officers accompanied two parole officers to the 100 block of Hahn and arrested a resident there for a no-bail parole violation. At 5:50 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle at Visitacion and Sawyer for an equipment violation. The driver, who lives on Riverton Street, was driving with a suspended license. She was cited and her 1995 Lexus was towed.

*On Nov. 29 at 5:11 p.m., officers went to the first block of Arleta where an adult son had beaten his mother and thrown her on the ground. The suspect was arrested for felony assault and criminal threats. At 7 p.m., a police sergeant and an officer went to the first block of Brookdale where a male had slapped a woman repeatedly and aggressively pulled her hair. The suspect, who lives in Oakland, was arrested for false imprisonment and domestic violence.

*On Nov. 30 at 1:06 a.m., an officer observed a suspect driving a stolen vehicle on Brookdale near Santos. The officer stopped the vehicle and arrested the suspect without incident. The suspect, who lives on the 1200 block of San Bruno, was charged with auto theft and a no bail parole violation.

*On Dec. 2 at 12:47 a.m., officers were working in on the 1900 block of Sunnydale when they spotted a vehicle being driven by an individual with irregular registration. They stopped the vehicle and found that it was stolen. The driver, who lives on the first block of Brookdale, was driving with a suspended license, was in possession of suspected methamphetamine and was wanted on a theft warrant from San Bruno.

*On Dec. 3 at. 8:15 p.m., officers went to the first block of Blythdale where an estranged husband was yelling outside his wife's residence, threatening to kill her and throwing objects at the windows. The victim stated that the suspect had been stalking and threatening her for weeks. When the officers arrived, the suspect had fled. They returned at 12:29 a.m. on Dec. 4 and found the suspect again in front harassing the victim. The suspect was arrested for threats, malicious mischief and stalking.

*On Dec. 5 at 1:03 p.m., Sunnydale officers spotted a wanted suspect walking on the 1700 block of Sunnydale. The resident of the area was booked on a no bail parolee at large warrant.

*On Dec. 6 at 3:58 a.m., officers and police sergeants responded to a call of multiple shots fired on the 200 block of Brookdale. The officers located where the shots were emanating from but could not gain entry to the residence. The officers climbed a concrete wall and Odum spotted an inebriated individual leaning out of a window with a shotgun in his hands. The officers detained the suspect and found that he had been shooting the weapon out the window. A search of his residence revealed two rifles and two automatic handguns. The suspect was arrested for a firearms violation and possession of marijuana for sale. At 11:20 a.m., a suspect who was responsible for a robbery on a Muni bus at Santos and Brookdale from a previous day turned himself in at Ingleside Station. The resident of the 100 block of Blythdale, who is 14 years of age, was arrested for robbery and receiving stolen property. At 10:17 p.m., a security guard stopped a suspect for trespassing on the 200 block of Rey. Officers cited the resident of the 300 block of Velasco for trespassing and possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

*On Dec. 9 at 4:37 p.m., officers and a police sergeant arrested a wanted suspect on the 1900 block of Sunnydale who lives in the neighborhood. She was wanted for burglary. At 6:25 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle at Argonaut and McCarthy for an equipment violation. The driver, who lives in South San Francisco, was unlicensed. He was cited and his 1990 Nissan was towed.

*On Dec. 10 at 3:55 p.m., officers were on the 1500 block of Sunnydale monitoring the activities of suspected gang members loitering in the area. One suspect, who lives on the first block of Towerside, attempted to conceal his face from the officers and also attempted to enter a residence but was denied entry. The officers stopped the suspect and arrested him on two warrants, one no bail for weapons and the other for narcotics and a restraining order violation. At 10:54 p.m., officers stopped a vehicle on the1500 block of Sunnydale for a stop sign violation. A passenger, who lives in Oakland, was wanted on a no bail theft warrant. At 10:55 p.m., officers in the above incident at Hahn and Sunnydale found that the driver, who lives on the first block of Dakota, was driving with a suspended license. She was cited and her 1992 Nissan was towed.

*On Dec. 11 at 3 p.m., a police lieutenant stopped a vehicle at Mansell and Visitacion for a stop sign violation. The driver, who lives on the 800 block of Moscow, was unlicensed. He was cited and his 1998 Jeep was towed.

Police Summaries

*Nov 17: 11:05 p.m., Brookdale and Geneva Aves., robbery, knife, five suspects, pushed to ground, money

*Nov 17: First block of Argonaut Ave., vandalism.

*Nov 17: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., malicious mischief.

*Nov 17: 400 block of Oneida Ave., theft, wallet.

*Nov 17: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., stayaway order violation, threats

*Nov 17: 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., probation search.

*Nov 17: 127 Tucker Ave., found 1995 Acura

*Nov 17: 1300 block of Visitacion Ave., theft from locked vehicle

*Nov 18: 4:10 am First block of Blythdale Ave., burglary attempted, window broken.

*Nov 18: 5:40 pm 400 block of Sunnse Ave., attempted carjacking with gun, three suspects ran away when another vehicle came down the street.

*Nov 18: 8:11 pm First block of Blythdale Ave., carjacking, officers find car on Teddy

*Nov 19: 31 Blythdale Ave., found 1993 Dodge

*Nov. 19: 500 block of Carter St., threatening phone calls.

*Nov 19: First block of Fratessa Ct., threats to kill.

*Nov 19: 1273 Sunnydale Ave., stolen 1989 Toyota

*Nov 20: 12:45 pm 100 block of Blythdale Ave., attempted burglary, window

*Nov 20: 2:36 pm 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, window, household items

*Nov 20: 200 block of Argonaut Ave., found 10 year-old boy

*Nov 20: First block of Blythdale Ave., missing 17 year-old girl.

*Nov 20: First block of Kelloch Ave., threats

*Nov 20: 700 block of Velasco Ave., vandalism to vehicle

*Nov 20: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., shots fired into window

*Nov 21: 200 block of Blythdale Ave., battery

*Nov 21: 81 Delta St., found 2002 Toyota

*Nov 22: 2:30 p.m., Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., felony assault, shot with paintball gun, bruises on victim

*Nov 22: 187 Blythdale Ave., found 1989 Chevrolet.

*Nov 22: 2 Hahn St., found 1992 Acura.

*Nov 23: 2:50 a.m., Hahn St. and Blythdale Blvd., robbery, pursesnatch, middleaged female victim, four suspects, strike victim on ground

*Nov 23: 244 Blythdale Ave., found 1984 Chevrolet.

*Nov 24: 1:30-2.30 p.m., 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, window, television

*Nov 24: 6:58 p.m., 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., shooting, 15 year-old victim, 2 suspects in hoods.

*Nov 24: 7:25 p.m., Delta St. and Visitacion Ave., robbery, two suspects, force, grabbed man's backpack.

*Nov 24: 8:30 p.m., Arleta and Bayshore Aves., robbery on Muni bus, took keys, force

*Nov 24: 200 block of Blythdale Ave., threats.

*Nov 24: First block of Kelloch Ave., domestic violence.

*Nov 25: 1:22 a.m., 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., shots fired.

*Nov 25: 7:05 a.m., 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., shooting, victim shot in thigh, middle back, left abdomen and right knee, stable at hospital, victim could not provide any information.

*Nov 25: 8:30 a.m., First block of Leland Ave., burglary, window, DVD, television.

*Nov. 25: 12:30-3.30 p.m., 200 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, unlocked window, ransacked

*Nov. 25: Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., shots fired

*Nov. 25: 100 block of Cora St., vandalism, violation of restraining order.

*Nov. 26: 200 block of Hahn St., vandalism to vehicle

*Nov 26: 100 block of Loehr St., 15 year-old taken for shelter.

*Nov 25: 373 Wilde Ave., found 1997 Dodge

*Nov. 27: 7 a.m.-5 p.m., First block of Brookdale Ave., burglary, rear door, money

*Nov 27: 1:50 p.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, front door, household items

*Nov 27: 200 block of Schwerin St., vandalism, domestic violence

*Nov. 28: 6:53 a.m., First block of Tioga Ave., homicide, woman shot as she enters vehicle

*Nov 28: 600 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, open window, took motorcycle.

*Nov 28: 10:40 a.m.-4:45 p.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, rear door, 3 suspects, camera

*Nov 28: 500 block of Carter St., trespasser

*Nov 28: 198 Elliott St., found 1994 Dodge.

*Nov 29: 8:50 a.m.-2.45 p.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, front door, jewelry, money

*Nov 29: 4:11 pm (occurred Nov. 28) 200 block of Oneida Ave., robbery, strongarm, classmates.

*Nov. 29: San Bruno Ave. and Mansell St., battery

*Nov 30: 7:30-8:45 a.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, window, television, shotgun.

*Nov 30: 8 a.m., San Bruno and Silver Aves., robbery, purse snatch on Muni bus, suspect escapes out back door.

*Nov 30: 200 block of Blythdale Ave., detain and release.

*Dec. 1: 300 block of Elliot St., vandalism to vehicle

*Dec. 1: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., stolen property investigation.

*Dec. 1: 1860 Sunnydale Ave., stolen 1991 Toyota

*Dec. 1: 2000 Sunnydale Ave., found 1991 Toyota.

*Dec. 2: 12:40 p.m., 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., fire in kitchen.

*Dec. 2: 3 p.m., First block of Blythdale Ave., arson, open area near gas lines

*Dec. 2: 8 p.m., 300 block of Sawyer St., burglary, back door, motorcycles

*Dec. 2: 200 block of Ordway Ave., medical assist

*Dec. 2: Santos St. and Velasoo Ave., detention and release

*Dec. 2: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., missing 16 year-old girl

*Dec 2: 1948 Sunnydale Ave., found 1994 Plymouth

*Dec 3: 1:59 a.m., First block of Gamson Ave., shots fired into door

*Dec 3: 12:43 p.m., First block of Alpha St., shots fired into residence, "rap" dispute.

*Dec 3: 11:30 p.m., Baoon St. and University Ave., robbery, three suspects, grab victim and take money

*Dec 3: 1600 block of Geneva Ave., theft from locked vehicle

*Dec 3: 100 block of Leland Ave., dispute.

*Dec 3: First block of Peabody St., found 24 year-old woman.

*Dec. 3: 1900 block of Sunnydale Ave., domestic violence.

*Dec. 5: 1:14 p.m. (occurred Nov. 30-Dec 4) 100 block of Peabody St., burglary, rear door, money, jewelry

*Dec. 5: 80 Carrizal St., found 1995 Ford.

*Dec 5: 1700 block of Felton St., missing 19 year-old woman

*Dec 5: 100 block of Leland Ave., fraud with ATM.

*Dec. 5: 300 block of Raymond Ave., death, 72 year-old woman.

*Dec 5: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., threats

*Dec. 5: 200 block of Teddy Ave., missing 57 year-old man.

*Dec 5: 700 Velasco Ave., found 1992 Chevrolet.

*Dec. 5: First block of Wabash Ter., death 56 year-old man

*Dec 6: 4:15 p.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, front gate, oomputer

*Dec. 6: 37 Blythdale Ave., found 1990 Dodge

*Dec. 6: Sunnydale and Cora St., stolen 1997 Nissan.

*Dec. 6: 200 block of Teddy Ave., missing 57 year-old man.

*Dec. 7: 12 noon, 700 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, suspect appears and flees from prior case.

*Dec. 7: 2:31 p.m., McLaren Park, felony assault, large fight

*Dec 7: 100 block of Arleta Ave., vandalism to vehicle.

*Dec 7: 100 block of Britton St., found 17 year-old girl.

*Dec. 7: 200 block of Brookdale Ave., suspicious letter.

*Dec 7: 200 block of Hahn St., vehicle strip

*Dec. 7: 300 block of Teddy Ave., mental detention, 57 year-old man.

*Dec 7: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, window, food

*Dec. 8: 9:30 a.m., First block of Brookdale Ave., burglary, two suspects try to break in, then flee.

*Dec 8: Elliot St. and Teddy Ave., stolen 1954 Ford.

*Dec. 8: 400 block of Sawyer St., breaking windows.

*Dec. 8: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., license plate recovered.

*Dec. 8: 7:30 a.m-6.30 p.m., 100 block of Peabody St., burglary, door, money, jewelry

*Dec. 9: 7:20 am Tioga and Rutland St., felony assault, stabbing, gang related

*Dec. 9: 12:20 pm 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., shots fired, no injury

*Dec. 9: 100 block of Gamson Ave., breaking windows with BB gun.

*Dec 9: 30 Hahn St., found 1998 Oldsmobile.

*Dec 9: First block of Santos St., theft from locked vehicle

*Dec. 9: 327 Sawyer St., found 1992 Yamaha motorcycle

*Dec. 9: Silver and San Bruno Aves., threats

*Dec 9: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., missing 15 year-old female.

*Dec 10: Geneva Ave. and Santos St., assault on bus

*Dec 11: First block of Leland Ave., breaking windows

*Dec 11: 3800 block of San Bruno Ave., theft, money

*Dec 11: 1100 block of Sunnydale Ave., threats.

*Dec 11: 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., found 1983 Chevrolet.

*Dec 11: 46 Wabash Terr., found 1983 Chevrolet.

*Dec 12: 400 block of Visitacion Ave., lost cell phone

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Grapevine Puzzler — Historic California II

C	H	R	Y	S	O	P	O	L	I	S	A	K	S	E	L	E	R	O	D
R	T	T	A	L	F	A	N	I	H	C	O	T	T	O	N	W	O	O	D
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Chilli Gulch
China Camp
China Flat
Chinese Camp
Chloride City
Chrysopolis
Clair Camp
Claraville
Clinton
Colfax
Collinsville
Coloma
Colonel
Allensworth
Columbia
Coolgardie
Copperopolis
Cottonwood
Cottonwood
Charcoal Kilns
Coulterville
Coyote Lake
Crackerjack
Crannell
Dale
Darwin
Deadwood
Death Valley
Junction
Dedrick
Denny
Doble
Dog Town
Doreleska
Douglas Flat
Downieville
Drawbridge
Drytown
Dunderberg
Dutch Flat
Eagle Borax Works
Eagle Mountain
Earp
Echo
El Dorado
Eldoradoville
Elizabethtown
Elliot
Eureka

Historic Proportions

1886

Match clues to answers.

1. Slavery abolished by Spain here on Oct. 7.
2. Dedicated in New York Harbor on Oct. 28.
3. Devastation here by fire on June 13. itish Columbia.
4. First and only president to wed in the White House on June 2.
5. He patented the first successful gasoline-driven automobile on Jan. 29.
6. Big earthquake hit here on Aug. 31.
7. Annexed by Great Britain on Jan. 1.
8. First advertised on May 29 by a chemist in an Atlanta newspaper.
9. Indianola, Texas destroyed by this on Aug. 20.
10. He became the first official World Chess Champion.
11. Mount Tarawera erupted here on June 10.
12. First revue staged on Nov. 30.

A. Karl Benz
B. New Zealand
C. Folies Bergère
D. Hurricane
E. Statue of Liberty
F. Burma
G. Coca-Cola
H. Wilhelm Steinitz
I. Cuba
J. Grover Cleveland
K. South Carolina
L. Vancouver, B.C.

Answers: 1-I, 2-E, 3-L, 4-J, 5-A, 6-K, 7-F, 8-G, 9-D, 10-H, 11-B, 12-C.

As a Matter of Fact

*Bayonets are believed to have been invented by Basque soldiers in the 17th century who stuck their knives at the ends of their muskets after running out of gun powder on the Bayonette Ridge.

*The ancient Greeks believed the mineral jasper could draw the poison from snake bites.

*More pencils are made in the U.S. than in any other country.

*Most light planes are capable of taking off or landing in 90 degree crosswinds that are less than 20 percent of the airplanes power-off stall speed.

*The Great Meteor Crater of Arizona lies between the towns of Flagstaff and Winslow. Scientists believe that a meteorite struck the earth about 50,000 years ago and dug a hole about 4,150 feet across and 570 feet deep.

Five Years Ago In the Grapevine

JANUARY 2002

*Sunset Scavenger mandated Valley residents join other San Francisco and California households in separating and discarding their waste in new recycling containers.

Sez Who?

Match quotes to speakers.

1. "Everybody ought to have a lower East Side in their life."
2. "The sky is the daily bread of the eyes."
3. "Backbite. To speak of a man as you find him when he can't find you."
4. "Do not the most moving moments of our lives find us all without words?"
5. "A baby is God's opinion that life should go on."
6. "Advertising is the greatest art form of the 20th Century."
7. "Truth, Sir, is a cow which will yield such people no more milk, and so they are gone to milk the bull."
8. "The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference."
9. "A man's as old as he feels, a woman as old as she looks."

A. Samuel Johnson
B. Marcel Marceau
C. Bess Myerson
D. Carl Sandburg
E. Ambrose Bierce
F. Ralph Waldo Emerson
G. Mortmer Collins
H. Marshall McLuhan
I. Irving Berlin

Answers: 1-I; 2-F; 3-E; 4-B; 5-D; 6-H; 7-A; 8-C; 9-G.

Sump, the Gump

Poor Rix's Almanac

Dear Poor Rix: I looked in the mirror yesterday, and - although I'm just 23 - I'm losing my hair! What do you recommend? - Curley

Poor Rix suggests you get rid of your mirror.

Seriously, I understand your plight, for Poor Rix sheds mountains of hair daily, much of it from the head.

Curley, is your hair really receding? Maybe you combed it differently, or your forehead just had a growth spurt.

Take this quick test: Get an old high school photo, and compare it with your hairline today. If you notice major mane loss - or if hair falls on the photo while you look at it - you might try remedial action.

Poor Rix personally favors the "comb-over." In this evasive maneuver, one simply rearranges hair to cover any bald spots.

Poor Rix - whose eyebrows have grown as scalp hair has flown - now combs head hair forward and brows backward, and looks much like an attractive hedgehog.

Balding remedies have existed for years. Hippocrates developed one made of onions, horseradish, and pigeon droppings. Users named this fowl mixture "Why Is My Girlfriend Vomiting?"

Today, however, we've got wonderful options including toupees, chemical remedies, and hair transplants. So don't despair. There's repair out there somewhere for missing hair on a scalp that's bare.

Dear Poor Rix: Big problem! It's almost December 25, and I haven't sent my holiday cards! What do you think about this? — Linda

Two questions, Linda:(1) Will you send Poor Rix a card? (2) Does it contain a gift certificate? Poor Rix believes a late card is a great card. Here are three good reasons — and two average ones — to delay mailing:

1. Excited Recipients — Before the 25th, your loved ones got greetings from friends, plus people who could sell them something. The week after, they'll welcome any card that doesn't require monthly payments.

2. Longer Shelf Life — It's likely those early cards got tossed out with wrapping paper. Not your later arrival, which might sit around until late January. (Money-saving hint: Add heart stickers to the envelope, call it a "Yuletide Valentine.")

3. Enclose a Letter — Between Christmas and New Year, recipients have nothing better to do, and will love to read letters about folks they met once at either a childbirth class or a school play.

4. Enclose Money — Last year my old football coach got a card containing 25 cents, along with the message"I heard you needed a quarter back."

5. Personal Delivery — For a fun night out — and perhaps a free meal — hand-deliver those cards to each door. When I tried this, some of my friends pretended they weren't home.

But that's OK I hung around until breakfast.

Dear Poor Rix: When did people begin to host parties for the New Year? — January Jan

Ancient Egyptians celebrated New Year when the Nile River overflowed, usually in June. Then someone suggested, "If we change New Year to January, we won't drown coming home from the party."

Early Romans named their celebration for Janus, a deity with two faces. One face looked backward, the other forward.

Today, we also reflect on the past and plan for the future. But we no longer have two faces, because the one in back is too hard to shave.

Another New Year's custom was chimney cleaning. This meant participants planned to "clean up" their faults, and strive to do better the next year.

Sadly, a few zealous cleaners toppled down the chute into the fireplace below. This was called "coming down with the flue."

The Druids celebrated the New Year on March 1. Unfortunately, that was two months late for bowl games.

But remember, these were ancient civilizations, and did not yet worship football.

Dear Poor Rix: Do you make New Year resolutions? Should I? — Julie

Poor Rix discovered long ago that the best resolutions require the least effort. Big plans often lead to big problems. Listen to these horror stories:

Last year, my friend Lisa resolved to marry. That didn't work, because that same year her boyfriend resolved to break up.

This month, one of my buddies plans to convert to vegetarianism. That's a big step, because he's a cannibal.

Complicated resolutions require extreme action. No one should ever take a giant step, except maybe on Leap Year. Perhaps these tips will help:

1. My friend Ernie plans to exercise one minute more each day. Because he doesn't exercise at all now, his routine won't change much in 2006.

2. If you're in school, resolving to make outstanding grades will require time, study, and effort. An alternative step might be: "I resolve to do better next semester, or at least not worse."

3. Ask others with the same goal for support. My buddy Dave and his wife resolved to eat better. So they dine on healthy salad, and reward themselves with junk food.

4. Limit the resolutions you make. Last year Poor Rix made only one: "Don't make resolutions for 2006." Ah, success!

5. Finally, remember that — much like world records — resolutions are made to be broken.

Poor Rix offers bad answers to good questions. E-mail him at: rixquinn@charter.net

Grapevine Classified

IT'S NOT SMART to do nothing when you have something negative in your life. The issue somehow affects and becomes everybody's problem.
*Getting nervous and upset.
*Feeling sick o a regular basis.
*Feeling like punching out something or someone.
*Feeling like screaming
*Can't sleep
*Watching television all night
*Simply not in a happy frame of mind.
*Problem making the right choices
If you are expenencing any of these symptoms, we need to talk with you. Visitacion Valley Jobs, Educaiton and Training center offers advocacy and mediation services relating to all types of quality-of-life issues. Court-mandated programs available. Service and trust is our commitment to the community. Contact Marjone Ann Williams, Counselor at (415) 239-2877.

GRAPEVINE DISPLAY ADVERTISING: new limited-time rates: Full Page $60; 1/2 Page $33.75; 1/4 Page $18.75, 1/8 Page $10; 1/12 Page $8; 1/16 Page $6. Generous discount for three or more insertions. Call (415) 467-9300 for more details. **Classified:** 20 words for $1. Extra line 50 cents. Ad and payments should be received by 15th of prior month at Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

VVCC BOARD MEETINGS: Visitacion Valley Community Center (VVCC) regular monthly Board meetings, held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., except December and May, are open to the public. Board members are selected by the members of the community center with dues currently paid, at the Annual Membership meeting held the 2nd Saturday in May each year. Any vacancies that occur on the Board due to uncompleted 3-year terms of membership are filled by appointment of the remaining Board members. At least 75% of our Board members must reside in Visitacion Valley. Persons interested in Board membership are encouraged to send a letter of interest to: Board of Directors Development Committee, Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. Please let the Board know what you could contribute that will enhance and improve our organization for better service to our community. You will be contacted and your letter will be submitted to the Board for consideration at either the next Annual election or of any available open positions that might occur within the coming year.

GRAPEVINE 20TH ANNIVERSARY special issue with neighborhood history still available, mailed anywhere in U.S. for $1. Send to: Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for VVCC After School Program to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitacion Valley area. Interested persons contact Dee Smith, VVCC After School coordinator: (415) 585-2059.

Saturdays are Special At Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Workshops are $3 per child; $5 for a parent and child combo. All kids under 8 must be with a paying adult. Call 554-9600 for further information.

*Jan. 6: Learn how real beekeepers extract honey from the comb.

*Jan. 13: Make a simple dancing marionette puppet to take home.

*Jan. 20: Construct your very own model train out of wood scraps.

*Jan. 27: Transform a plain brown paper bag into a native woodland duck puppet.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

*Morning Family Ceramics from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ($5 per person workshop fee)

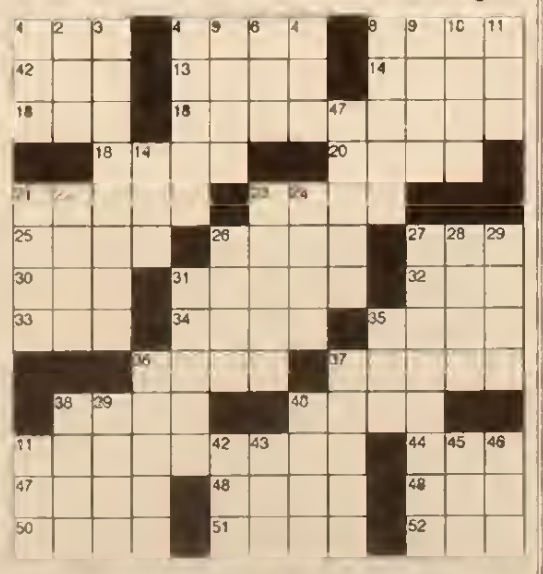
*Meet the Animals from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

*Animal Feeding at 12 noon.

*Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 11



ACROSS
1 Man's name: abbr.
4 Wings
8 Indian lady
2 Dance company (abbr.)
13 Celtic
14 Black
15 Bureau of Indian Affairs (abbr.)
16 Smalt (2 words)
18 Rom. ruler
20 Sayings (auf.)
21 Cash
23 Crafty
25 Frenzied
26 Jap. pit viper
27 Ram
30 New (Ger.)
31 Eagle's nest
32 Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)
33 Office holders
34 Norse tale
35 Tantalize
36 Highest (pref.)
37 Chomp
38 Fat (pref.)
40 College entrance exams
41 Debt
44 Sheep's cry
47 Egypt. skink
48 Idea (pref.)
49 Adjective-forming (suf.)
50 Cape
51 Yound salmon
52 Flap

DOWN
1 Poke
2 Fetiah
3 Containing tin
4 Pantry
5 New augarcana ahoot
6 S.A. herb
7 Devon river
8 Hold fast: naut
9 Dayak people
10 Beerlike Arab drink
11 Immigration and Naturalization Service (abbr.)
17 Medieval fiddla
19 Mouse-spotter's cry
21 Peanut
22 Presage
23 Load
24 Son of Samuel
26 Head
27 Send
28 N. Caucasian language
29 Way
31 Amer. Standard Coda for Information Exchange (abbr.)
35 Alona
36 Uncle of Mohammed
37 Urban office holder
38 Take part
39 Mississippi bridge
40 Noun-forming (suf.)
41 Swed. county
42 Flaring edge
43 Mountain on Creta
45 Amer. Automobile Asan. (abbr.)
46 Albania (abbr.)

Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code
Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300

AQUARIUM
DRAGON CITY AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave , 333-4598
AUTOMOTIVE
BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd , 467-6130
BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd , 239-5239
BROTHER'S AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd
CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2550 Bayshore Blvd , 239-7450
TW AUTOMOTIVE , 2500 Bayshore Blvd , 585-8281
BANK
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave , 622-4501
BAKERS
LITTLE QUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave , 239-2253
BARBERS
BARBERSHOP, 3570 San Bruno Ave., 724-4398
DeMASI'S BARBER SHOP, 35 Leland Ave
THE SHOP (JB), 160A Leland Ave , 239-6709
BEAUTICIANS
BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave , 333-7261
FACE, BODY & SOUL (Skincare Treatments), 3582 San Bruno Ave , 467-3223
LUCKY HAIR, 2436 Bayshore Blvd , 586-8288
MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave , 337-9381
MIZ RENA'S SALON, 19 Blanken Ave , 467-3399
NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave , 333-6800
WHO'S BADD, 224 Leland Ave , 657-3156
BLIND CLEANING
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Girard St , 467-7506
BOARDING HOUSE
ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rutland St , 333-4664, fax 333-4693
BOOKKEEPERS
AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927
VERNA WALLACE E.A. 2320 Bayshore Blvd , 239-5333
CARPETS
HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave , 333-6382
CASKETS
CASKETORIUM, INC., 93 Leland Ave , 585-3451
CHURCHES
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5960
IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave , 468-1213
RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave , 239-5457
ST JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave 586-6381
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave , 467-6055
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503
COFFEE
CANDLESTICK COFFEE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd , 467-2442
HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd , 469-5309
JOE LELAND CAFE, 28 Leland Ave
CREDIT UNION
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 29 Leland Ave , 434-0738
DAY CARE
CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St , 469-5353
DENTIST
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5500
DEVELOPERS
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7895
ELECTRICAL
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657
FLORISTS
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave 468-0145
GARDEN ORNAMENTS
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd , 239-5990
GROCERS
CASA LOPEZ PRODUCE, 58 Leland Ave , 586-4745
E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave , 585-9240
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave , 467-7300
K.C. MARKET, 400 Wilde St , 467-3024
LA LOMA PRODUCE #2, 65 Leland Ave , 239-7520
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave , 586-1815
M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave , 585-0878
PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd , 468-6800
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd , 468-8646
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd , 586-4851
SMITTY'S MARKET, 2610 Bayshore Blvd , 239-5506
SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6856
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave
HERBS
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave 333-7469
HYPNOTHERAPY
VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave , 468-5631
INSURANCE
EDIE EPPS (A.H.E. INSURANCE), 467-0236, Fax 467-0276
ROBERT LEHMAN, CLTC (Blue Cross), 333-0850
KITCHEN CABINETS
LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, 25 Leland Ave , 333-2730
LAUNDRY/CLEANERS
BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave
CITY WASH, 83 Leland Ave , 333-9467
COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave
FORTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418
LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave , 586-1412
VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave
VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 106 Leland Ave., 239-9030
LEARNING
3-N-1 LEARNING ACADEMY, 240 Leland Ave , 584-8555
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave , 452-4907
VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 585-9320
LIBRARY
VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH, 45 Leland Ave , 239-5270
MANUFACTURER
SEE'S CANDIES, INC. 345 Schwerin St
MEDICAL
AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave , 584-3620
HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept of Public Health), 1099 Sunnydale Ave , Appointments: 715-0310
DR. SAM HO, MD, 2858 San Bruno Ave , 337-6135
NEW CARNIVAL ACUPRESSURE HEALTH CENTER, 2458 Bayshore Blvd , 337-8100
NORTHEAST MEDICAL SERVICES, LELAND AVENUE 82 Leland Ave , 391-9686 (ask for Leland Avenue clinic)
PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Dr Divyang Patel) 2858 San Bruno Ave 467-7500
NOTARY
ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE, 46 Leland Ave , 333-4900
ORGANIZATIONS
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 2442 Bayshore Blvd , 587-2689
GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave , 584-2700
GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnydale Ave , 333 Schwerin St , 584-4044
JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233
LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave , 405-2000
ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave , 333-4001
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave , 467-4499
PHARMACY
VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave., 239-5811
PHOTOGRAPHER
WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 435 Sawyer St , 587-9471, fax 337-8620
PLUMBING
MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arleta Ave , 467-7401
POST OFFICE
VISITACION USPO, 68 Leland Ave , (800) 275-8777
REAL ESTATE
JUSTYNA P TO (Century 21), 2488 Junipero Serra Blvd , Daly City 94015, (650) 991-5215, Mobile (415) 830-1235
LaFLUE-WALTON & ASSOCIATES, 2428 Bayshore Blvd , 587-8683
CATHY KLINE SAUNDERS (Zephyr Real Estate), 215 West Portal Ave 731-5011 ex 163
RESTAURANTS
BAYSIDE CAFE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd , 467-2023
G & L BAKERY & RESTAURANT, 198 Leland Ave ., 239-6283
HERNANDEZ TAQUERIA & BAKERY, 98 Leland Ave , 587-7721
LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave , 585-1167
MISS MATTIE'S SUNFLOWER BLUES CAFE, 107 Leland Ave , 333-8854
PHO Y & G RESTAURANT, 73 Leland Ave , 469-5686
TWO JACK'S, 167 Leland Ave , 337-0433
SCULPTOR
CARTORIGINALS (Mikal Cartor), 2 Hahn St , 239-4138
SELF-DEVELOPMENT
DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS (Marjone Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist) 467-7608
SERVICE PROVIDERS
THE VILLAGE, 1099 Sunnydale Ave , 239-5045
VISITACION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH OUTREACH CENTER, 57 Leland Ave
VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING (VVBESST), 120 Leland Ave
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave , 467-6400
VVCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave ,586-6998, Fax 586-8027
VISITACION VALLEY JOBS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VVJET), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 239-2866
TAVERN
THE CLUB HOUSE, 25 Blanken Ave
TELEPHONE
D & A WIRELESS, 78 Leland Ave , 452-4139
VARIETY
GOLDEN 99 CENTS ZONE, 5-7 Leland Ave., 333-3923

Leadership Using DNA to Catch Criminals

by CA Attorney General Bill Lockyer

As I reflect on the last eight years I've spent as California's attorney general, one of the achievements of which I am most proud is my partnership with law enforcement to cement California's leadership in the use of DNA to catch criminals and protect the innocent.

Since taking office in 1999, I have championed the use of DNA to identify and prosecute criminals and help bring justice and closure to victims. DNA has revolutionized the work of law enforcement, helping investigators catch criminals who thought they had gotten away with murders, rapes and other violent crimes.

Under state law that we helped strengthen, now individuals convicted of any felony must submit biological samples that yield DNA profiles that are stored in the Cal-DNA Data Bank. Profiles extracted from crime scene evidence are compared to profiles in the Data Bank, and if there is a match, law enforcement is notified.

As of November 2006, the total number of searchable DNA samples from offenders is 625,207, and the number of "hits" is more than 3,000.

I sponsored legislation that expanded the use of DNA evidence so that law enforcement can more effectively catch criminals and help locate missing persons. Imprisoned felons also now have the right to obtain DNA testing in order to support their claim of innocence. Thus, DNA helps convict the guilty and free the innocent.

We opened an $18 million, 68,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art DNA lab in Richmond that uses the latest in scientific robotics technology and employs top-level scientists and staff. Our DNA lab is widely regarded as the largest and best in the country.

Prior to 1999, the lab produced an average of one "cold hit" – using DNA evidence to solve a previously unsolved crime – per year. By making the expansion of the DNA databank a top law enforcement priority, the lab now averages more than one hit every day. These hits have included identifying Scott Thomas Erskine in 2001 for the brutal 1993 murders of two San Diego children, 9-year-old Jonathan Sellers and 13-year-old Charlie Keever; David James McIntosh in 2001 for the vicious 1984 sexual assault and murder of Heidi Fredette in Tehama County; and many others.

The success of the Attorney General's DNA lab is regarded as a key reason why sexual assaults in California remain at historically low levels. We are working hard to do an even better job combating these assaults with the use of DNA evidence. Recently, I unveiled a $1.1 million Fast Track Forensic Program, a pilot effort in Southern California to process DNA evidence from sexual assault cases within five days, research evidence collection techniques and enhance the use of forensics in acquaintance rape cases. The sooner vital information on sexual assault is delivered to law enforcement, the sooner suspects can be identified and taken off the streets.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the many members of law enforcement and our DNA lab who have worked tirelessly to make California the best in the country at using this revolutionary technology to advance our leadership in fighting crime, protecting the innocent and assuring that our families live in peace and safety.

Crossword Puzzle Solution

J	O	S	■	A	L	A	E	■	B	I	B	I
A	B	T	■	M	A	N	X	■	E	B	O	N
B	I	A	■	B	L	U	E	G	L	A	S	S
■	■	N	E	R	O	■	■	I	A	N	A	■
M	O	N	E	Y	■	C	A	G	Y	■	■	■
A	M	O	K	■	H	A	B	U	■	T	U	P
N	E	U	■	A	E	R	I	E	■	R	D	A
I	N	S	■	S	A	G	A	■	B	A	I	T
■	■	■	A	C	R	O	■	M	U	N	C	H
■	S	E	B	I	■	■	S	A	T	S	■	■
L	I	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y	■	M	A	A
A	D	D	■	2	I	D	E	O	■	I	A	L
N	E	S	■	I	P	A	R	R	■	T	A	B

Visitacion Valley Family and Community Services Center

For a Better, Healthier, Safer Community for All

We Can Help You!

Complete Immigraiton documents, assist with SF County paperwork (Medi-Cal, Welfare, etc.) , education workshops, referrals to other services

Meet and Eat Activities
Thursday, January 11
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Theme: Math is Everywhere
In collaboration with KQED
Funded by First 5 San Francisco

Meet and Eat Activities
Thursday, January 18
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Theme: Coloring
In collaboration with KQED
Funded by First 5 San Francisco

Every Wednesday
January 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31
6 - 8 p.m.
Men's Classes
Facilitated by
Before The After
FREE Refreshments

Parents Support Group
Thursday, January 25
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Julia Carmen, Before The After
Everyone is welcome!

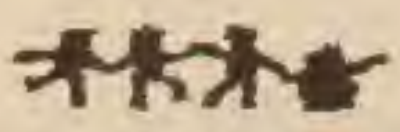
January 2007 Activities
held at 161 Leland Avenue
except where noted

Enhanced Information and Referral
Every Monday Through Friday
January 1 to 31
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free Food Distribution
Every Monday, 3 - 4 p.m.
January 1, 8. 15. 22 and 29
Emergency food box available anytime.
Call (415) 586-6998, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5p.m.

Parents Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, January 5, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
at 325 Leland Ave.

Individual and Family Counseling
Thursday, January 25
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For appointment, please call Julia Carmen at (650) 738-8045 or FCSC Staff at (415) 586-6998



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Cathy began looking at Visitacion Valley real estate in 1949, and she's been out in front of the competition ever since.

Cathy has been the most successful REALTOR® in Visitacion Valley for more than 20 years.

She was born and raised in the Valley, and has successfully represented buyers and sellers for years. She's actively involved in neighborhood charities and community events.

For all your real estate needs, call Cathy!

Cathy Kline Saunders
Broker Associate, REALTOR®
415.731.5000 ext 163

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